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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-082
Friday
30 April 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Further Reportage on Peace Talks in Washington

Palestinian Team Reiterates Demands

TA2904142093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] AL-QUDS has learned that 30 deportees who have been allowed by Israel to return to the homeland are the first batch from the 1967-1987 deportees.

AL-QUDS has learned that the Palestinian delegation has presented numerous demands to the Israeli delegation regarding family reunification, a halt to the demolition of houses built without permits, and release of administrative detainees. Positive responses to these demands are expected within hours.

It has been learned that at the first meeting of the ninth round the Israeli delegation did not present anything in detail, while the Palestinian delegation affirmed the following:

1. The terms of reference of the peace process are embodied in implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 in the transitional and final stages.

2. Total geographical sovereignty over the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

3. A halt to settlement.

4. Implementation of Resolution 799.

Israeli, Palestinian Delegates on Deportees

TA2904191293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The peace talks between Israel and the Arab countries continued today. Israel handed Syria a new paper of stands aimed at promoting the negotiations between the two countries. Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Stern] As in the past, ups and downs characterize this round of talks. There are great expectations, many disappointments, and nothing gets decided.

Today a belligerent chief Syrian delegate arrived at the State Department building, demanding full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights at once. [passage omitted]

With the exception of the consent to stop using the slogan of full peace in return for full withdrawal, the negotiations with Syria were stuck until yesterday. To get things going, the Israeli delegation came up with a new paper which can be the basis of a joint document of principles. The paper comprises elements of peace, security, and withdrawal.

[Washington Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich] We feel that there is goodwill on our part, and that the Syrian side is willing to harness this goodwill in an effort to score tangible achievements, but they find it difficult to make the necessary albeit not very big step toward that achievement. We are willing to help, but without surrendering the red lines we have set for ourselves.

[Stern] [passage omitted] Mr. Rubinstein, do you sense a different atmosphere as a result of the return of deportees?

[Chief Israeli delegate to talks with Jordan and Palestinians Elyaqim Rubinstein] I suppose there is satisfaction on the deportee issue, but as for the negotiations, we are still waiting for affirmative answers. We will wait patiently, but the answers have to arrive.

[Stern, in English] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, any comment on the return of the deportees?

[Chief Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in English] We look at it as an obligation on Israel to return all the deportees, because deportation is illegal and in contradiction with the principles of human rights. Certainly, we are happy that they are coming back. We hope all of them will come back.

[Stern] Israeli delegation sources have told me that despite the lengthy sessions, despite the detailed proposals Israel has put on the negotiating table, the Palestinians are as yet unwilling to broach substantive issues. Still stuck with questions they posed in the past, they are unwilling to discuss issues bearing on the future. [end recording]

Arab Delegates Assess Progress

JN2904201993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Jordan Television Washington correspondent Kassab Samawi on the ninth round of Middle East peace talks; date not given]

[Text] It is hoped the current round of the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks will fare better than the previous eight rounds, make progress that would put the peace process on a more stable, ongoing footing, and rekindle the hopes of the people of the region that a just and general peace—acceptable to future generations—may be attained.

The Arab delegates to this round came here to give the peace process another chance. As the Arabs test Israeli and U.S. promises, a state of suspense prevails in the corridors of the negotiating rooms in Washington. Three days into the talks, it is too soon to pass judgment on their progress; however, there have been somewhat optimistic indications:

[Begin recording] [Jordanian chief delegate al-Majali] We have sensed a few indications signalling a change even in the language and style used by the other side and consequently in its perception of certain issues that was different from previous rounds.

[Palestinian chief delegate 'Abd-al-Shafi] We hope we will emerge with an achievement; we are eager to produce an achievement.

[Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi] We have sensed a readiness to discuss certain items that previously were taboo, including such issues as legislation, land, the terms of reference, and linkage. However, they remain mere headings; we need substance and specifics. There is also the other extremely important human rights issue. Agreement was reached to form a committee on the sidelines of the negotiations and not to negotiate over human rights, these being a fundamental Palestinian rights. Israel should be made to respect human rights in the occupied territories. [end recording]

Based on the principle of the comprehensiveness of a just solution, the Jordanian delegation, meanwhile, restated Jordan's commitment to support the brother Palestinian delegates as they seek to make headway in the Palestinian-Israeli track of the negotiations as a key to any progress or breakthrough in the other tracks.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] It is universally accepted that the heart of the peace conference is the Palestinian question. We have all along argued that without progress in this track, none of the other tracks can reach the finishing line.

[Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, head of Jordan's information department in Washington] At the same time, we feel that this round is especially important for the Palestinian track in particular, which must register tangible progress, either in terms of measures to alleviate the daily suffering of the Palestinians under occupation, or through the transfer of power from Israel to a Palestinian self-rule authority. [end recording]

The Palestinian delegation, joined for the first time by Faysal al-Husayni, is seeking clear and binding Israeli answers to questions pertaining to the powers of an interim self-rule government, the concept of land for peace, and Jewish settlements. The Palestinians stress the need to reverse the closure of the West Bank and Gaza strip and the repressive measures of Israeli occupation.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We are working on this issue; we have added it to the political the agenda of the talks. Such Israeli measures contravene international legitimacy and the goals of the negotiations, in particular decoupling Jerusalem from the occupied Arab territory and compartmentalizing occupied palestine so that it will become impossible then to set up a proper state or entity there. [end recording]

In Washington Arab delegates are hoping for a more effective U.S. role in the negotiations; they have received with satisfaction Warren Christopher's meeting on the first day of the ninth round with all the negotiating teams. The meeting was seen by observers as an unusual twist in the style of the Clinton administration.

[Begin Al-Mu'ashshir recording] This may be an indication that the Americans are now prepared to play a more visible role in the peace process than in the past. [end recording]

On the fringes of the negotiations, an EC troika team conferred with the negotiating teams within the framework of the international effort to advance the peace process.

[Begin Al-Majali recording] The Europeans want to keep track of the talks in the hope of somehow or other playing a role in bridging the viewpoints. [end recording]

The Palestinian negotiators saw in the Israeli consent the day before yesterday to take back 30 Palestinian deportees the first confidence building measure by Israel.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] Of course we are glad to see some deportees return home; we hope all of them will go back, since deportation is illegal and clashes with human rights conventions. [end recording]

Given the great expectations held out for the current round, it would be better not to be too optimistic. The enormity of the difficulties involved is not being belittled by anyone here; yet the hope remains that the talks will prove successful.

Israeli-Syrian Principles Proposed

TA2904164593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] In Washington today, the Israeli delegation handed the Syrian delegation a new document dealing with peace, security, and withdrawal. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan says that the new proposal is designed to help formulate a joint Israeli-Syrian paper of principles.

Arriving at the U.S. Department of State, the chief Syrian delegate said that his country continues to demand full withdrawal, and that the Israeli stands have not changed during the months which have elapsed since the last round of talks.

Syria's al-'Allaf Comments

JN2904184993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The Arab delegations to the peace talks with Israel have held a third meeting as part of the current ninth round before adjourning until Monday.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, made a statement before today's meeting. He denied any change in the Syrian position on the equation of full peace in return for full withdrawal. Replying to questions by a journalist, al-'Allaf said that there will be no retreat from this equation. This is a stand, and we do not take stands unless we are sure of them, al-'Allaf said. The Israeli side renounced this equation, saying that it is unacceptable and rejected, he added.

Al-'Allaf said: We still adhere to the fact that a full peace cannot be established without a full withdrawal from the Arab territories, which Israel occupied in 1967. This equation is contained in the Syrian document which is being discussed in the current talks, he added.

Asked whether a document of principles will be written during the current talks, al-'Allaf said: A Syrian document exists. It was previously discussed and is currently being discussed. Asked about the possibility of reaching an agreement on a joint declaration of principles during this round, al-'Allaf said: This depends on how much Israel is ready to accept the indispensable bases and principles of establishing a just and comprehensive peace. He added: Unless Israel accepts a full withdrawal and security on equal bases and unless it accepts ending all violations of Arab rights, there will be no room for agreement with Israel.

Asked about the hopes pinned on the U.S. full partner's role in the talks, al-'Allaf said: A full partner should make sure that the parties are committed to the bases of the peace process to which they were invited. We were invited to this process in order to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of land for peace. This principle is accepted by the entire internatinal community, except Israel.

Al-'Allaf asserted that the land-for-peace principle does not mean that Israel will donate territory of its own to obtain peace. In fact, Israel will only return the territory usurped by war and occupied for more than 25 years. Such a return of territory and a full withdrawal from the Arab territories are a basic condition to establish peace. He added that it will not be useful for Israel to make maneuvers and talk about withdrawal, partial withdrawal, or the conditions for withdrawal. This is so because full withdrawal should be secured before anything else. Afterward, peace obligations will be discussed, al-'Allaf said.

Asked whether he would request that the U.S. sponsor make proposals to promote the talks, especially since it is not clear yet whether there has been a change in the Israeli position, al-'Allaf said: I do not think that this is the most important issue. He added that before considering this request the Israeli side's readiness and seriousness about the peace process should be ascertained. He added: Of course, the U.S. sponsor can always help, but prior to this we should make sure that the Israeli side is indeed interested in peace.

No Progress Seen in Israeli-Syrian Talks

TA2904204693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The Israeli-Syrian talks in Washington again made no progress tonight despite the new paper of stands which Israel submitted to the Syrians. Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said that the new Israeli definitions are more radical than in the past. He further said that the Syrian delegation intends to conclude the current round of talks next Thursday [6 May] if no progress is made by then.

Al-'Allaf on 29 Apr Session

JN3004071193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chief of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that yesterday's session with the Israeli delegation discussed in length the Syrian document, which is based on full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of returning the Arab territories occupied in 1967 in exchange for peace.

In a statement following the session, al-'Allaf said the Israeli delegation tried during this session to maneuver and waste time by discussing formulas, which have already been presented by the same delegation in the past and rejected. That attempt, he said, was confronted and foiled.

Al-'Allaf explained that the Israelis presented some formulas which they had presented during the previous three rounds. He said: These formulas were discussed in the past and rejected, but they presented them again. The language of these formulas was, at times, a little different from the past but leading to the same meaning, and, at others, the languaage was more negative than the past. Al-'Allaf said these amendments were rejected because they violate the letter and spirit of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Al-'Allaf said when the talks resume on Monday, discussions of the Syrian document will continue. He said that during yesterday's session, it was asserted that without complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the peace process could not achieve its goal of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Palestinians, Israelis Form 3 Groups

JN3004072493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] At the end of the third session of talks in Washington, heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the bilateral peace talks said that the two delegations yesterday formed three working groups. Two of these working groups began talks yesterday. The first working group is discussing a defintion of the concept of autonomy while the second working group is discussing land and water issues. The third working group—in charge of human rights in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip—is supposed to meet at the beginning of the second week of negotiations.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that forming these working groups is a final attempt to reach an agreement with the Israelis and shows the Palestinians' willingness to give the peace process an opportunity to succeed. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, said that forming the working groups will allow the achievement of results and create a good climate for work.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the bilateral peace negotiations, reaffirmed the need for Israel to pledge a full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan heights. After a meeting between the Syrian and Israeli delegations, the third one since the resumption of the negotiations, at the U.S. Department of State yesterday, al-'Allaf added that the Israelis did not offer anything new during this meeting and were content to present proposals they presented previously on withdrawal, peace, and security. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said he told Israelis that their document could not be accepted because it contradicted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

Progress Seen in Palestinian Talks

TA3004055493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] It took several days, but before witnessing any crisis or threats to walk out, we are hearing reports of significant, positive progress in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Last night, the two delegations agreed to establish three working groups. One group will discuss the interim arrangement and self-government, the second group will deal with land and water issues, and the third will discuss human rights in the territories. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Golan] The turning point only came in the wake of massive efforts by Edward Djerejian and the other members of the U.S. State Department peace team. After the first two meetings in which Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi incessantly spoke about the settlements in the territories, the Americans began intensive contacts with the Palestinians. The pressure began to show results after several meetings, and last night the members of the Israeli delegation could speak with satisfaction about significant progress in the negotiations. Some people consider this a victory for Faysal al-Husayni's line and his first contribution to the talks.

Israel and the Palestinians established three official working groups. Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Elyaqim Rubinstein will head the group entrusted with formulating the nature of the interim arrangements and the concept of self-government. Dani Rothschild and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will head the group responsible for land and water issues. The Palestinians placed Mamduh al-'Akir in charge of the working group on human rights in the territories. The Israeli delegates have still not decided who will be their representative in this group. The first two working groups have already convened and scheduled working arrangements for 3 May. The Palestinians will also incorporate two experts: Ahmad al-Khalidi will join the working group on self-government, and Kamil Mansur will join the group discussing land and water issues.

Elyaqim Rubinstein nevertheless asserts that the latest developments should not be exaggerated:

[Rubinstein] As is my custom, I would not call it a breakthrough; I would rather describe it as a positive development. In the past, we also convened in informal forums. Now it has been decided to establish official working groups on important issues. The first two groups already met today. There are still big differences between our positions, and there is still a long way to go; however, if we are now holding serious negotiations instead of engaging in angry exchanges, recriminations, and expressions of discontent, then that is definitely encouraging.

[Golan] Would you say that Faysal al-Husayni's more pragmatic line won over Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who constantly tried to talk about the settlements?

[Rubinstein] I do not wish to discuss the internal affairs of the Palestinian delegation. The fact is that yesterday the Palestinians were more inclined to focus on issues of a political and contentious nature, like the one you mentioned, whereas today they adopted a more constructive approach. Although I assume that this was also the result of their meetings with us to some extent, their contacts with the Americans played a major part.

[Golan] Are the Americans more involved in the current round of talks than the previous administration?

[Rubinstein] There is a greater degree of involvement, but it is not overt because the actual negotiations are held directly between us and the Arab parties. Nevertheless, the meetings with the Americans and the contacts held behind the scenes or on the sidelines are more intensive than in the previous stages.

[Golan] Would you say that now there is a greater chance of making real progress in the negotiations, especially after seeing that the Palestinians agreed to set up working groups as a result of the U.S. influence and involvement?

[Rubinstein] That is what we hope to see, and that is our aspiration. If the other side shows readiness, then things will definitely get serious.

[Golan] No peace talks will be held on Friday, and the Israeli delegates will take advantage of their free time to visit the recently inaugurated Holocaust Museum. [end recording]

Lebanon's Shammas Urges Prisoner Release

NC3004061193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The third session of Arab-Israeli talks ended yesterday.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said his team raised the issue of the Lebanese detainees held in Israeli prisons in Israel and in the occupied Lebanese land. He called on Israel to release these detainees in line with international law and norms. He said the Israelis promised to respond to the Lebanese request.

Shammas added that the Israeli delegation raised the issue of six Israelis missing in Lebanon since 1982. He criticized statements by Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, who described the Lebanese detainees as terrorists. Shammas said: I do not agree with him when he describes Lebanese citizens, who have been detained in Israeli prisons illegally, as terrorists. Any Lebanese citizen fighting for the freedom of his homeland fights for liberty; we will not change our views—whatever the pressure.

In his statement, Shammas said he told the Israelis that if they respond to Lebanon's request and release the detainees, this would create the sound atmosphere that could achieve the progress we hope for. He said he hoped Israel will respond soon.

Al-Husayni on Goals of Talks

TA3004110193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Apr 93 p 17

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating teams, by Dan Avidan in Washington—date not given]

[Text] [Avidan] Faysal al-Husayni, how do you feel attending the talks as a full-fledged member of the delegation for the first time?

[Al-Husayni] Previously, I followed the negotiations from a distance, as a general observer. Now I have a closer and more thorough view of the negotiations. The situation is excellent in this respect. In this way I am more involved in the negotiations. Furthermore, a new representative who joins the negotiations always brings a somewhat different point of view. This could help in freeing the negotiations from their routine and clarifying certain issues, thereby helping to advance the negotiations.

[Avidan] You are described as a pragmatic politician. Do you accept this description?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I have a pragmatic attitude. The fact that Israel agreed to my participation in the negotiations indicates that it has adopted a realistic attitude. As a pragmatic person, I can contribute to the advancement of the negotiations. I hope Israel sticks to realistic attitudes and does not adopt unreasonable positions, as some argue it should.

[Avidan] Most of the Palestinian delegates had refused to return to the negotiations. 'Arafat ordered them to return. Are we witnessing a new era in which the traditionally extreme Palestinian diaspora is more moderate than the residents of the territories?

[Al-Husayni] A leader always has a broader view of all the aspects of the issues. The delegates can only see some of the trees while 'Arafat sees the entire forest, the overall picture of all aspects of the negotiations. That is why the delegates should accept his strategy. I can tell you that 'Arafat is a pragmatic leader who makes his decisions based on an overall consideration of the facts. The silly accusations leveled at him for his decision to return to the talks are baseless.

[Avidan] Were the Palestinian delegates threatened? Were you?

[Al-Husayni] Sa'ib 'Urayqat's family members were the only ones to receive threats when he left for Jordan for consultations. This, however, was perpetrated by childish people who are not affiliated with any political body.

[Avidan] You attended the al-Asad-'Arafat meeting in al-Ladhiqiyah on 22 April. What happened there?

[Al-Husayni] The two leaders openly discussed all the issues pertaining to Syria and the PLO. The meeting lasted five and a half hours and normalized their relations. Both parties came out satisfied. A new and better phase has started in Syrian-PLO relations. It was the "ripening" of a long process.

[Avidan] Did al-Asad pressure the Palestinians to return to the talks?

[Al-Husayni] No such pressure was ever applied. The two leaders discussed the various aspects of the future of relations between the PLO and Syria and reached understandings.

[Avidan] Was the animosity between al-Asad and 'Arafat eliminated?

[Al-Husayni] There is no personal animosity between them. Relations between Syria and the PLO were tense for a long time. The tension has now been removed and the road to improving relations has been paved. The PLO and Syria maintain political coordination within the framework of pan-Arab coordination.

[Avidan] What has happened so far in the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] I do not want to refer to the details of the negotiations. We received an agreement to return 30 old-time deportees to the territories. This is a good step. We started discussing additional Israeli gestures, and the discussions will continue. When the talks started, each side held a general review of the other party's stands.

[Avidan] What is your impression of the Israeli delegation, of Elyaqim Rubinstein?

[Al-Husayni] I have already met some of them outside the negotiations. Rubinstein makes a better impression in the negotiations than on television. The first meetings went well.

[Avidan] what additional gestures are you demanding of Israel, aside from returning the 30 deportees?

[Al-Husayni] Some 1,600 people have been deported since 1967, including the 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. We want all of them to be returned and deportations to stop altogether. The 30 will be returning to the territories within the next few days. No one believes that all of those deported since 1967 will return at once, but we want their return to be continuous and in groups. We will present Israel with additional lists of deportees to be returned, but it is obvious to us that the process will take time.

[Avidan] Has Israel agreed to return all 1,600 deportees?

[Al-Husayni] We do not know that Israel agrees to this, but it seems to us that it is willing to consider it. Why should a government that agreed to the return of 30 not agree to the return of 300 or more? The principle of allowing deportees to return has been agreed upon; the rest is procedure, which we will handle.

[Avidan] What are your political demands of Israel?

[Al-Husayni] As the negotiations proceed, we will listen to Israel's proposals regarding the source of authority of the negotiations, and we hope that its stand corresponds with the principles of the talks, as agreed at the time with the Americans.

[Avidan] You want UN Resolution 242 to be the basis for negotiations, while you interpret the resolution to call for a total Israeli withdrawal from the territories within the framework of the permanent arrangement.

[Al-Husayni] To us, 242 defines the territory under discussion with regard to the interim and the future permanent arrangement. Naturally, in our view 242 means an Israeli withdrawal from all of the territories, while reaching agreements on agreed and secure borders. We are prepared to make border modifications, but on both sides. We will hold practical discussions on both sides' needs and on the ways to demarcate the new border—through mutual agreement, not unilaterally. If we are seeking regional cooperation and open borders, the borderline should be adjusted so that it does not create barriers between Palestinian villages and Jewish settlements and does not cut Arab villages—such as in Bayt Safafa, for example—in half. As we advance in the negotiations, many issues which presently seem difficult and sensitive will appear solvable, including the border demarcation.

[Avidan] What is the main problem in the negotiations on the autonomy?

[Al-Husayni] In the negotiations, Israel and the Palestinians have been asked to lay the foundations for a Palestinian home. We want to construct a 10-story building—that is: a Palestinian state. You want the building to have one floor only: the autonomy. We demand that the foundations laid be able to support a 10-story building, while Israel wants the foundations to support only a single floor. In other words, Israel wants to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and is, therefore, limiting the authority of the autonomy council with regard to legislation, sovereignty over land, and domestic security issues.

[Avidan] Israel is now offering the establishment of a Palestinian police force under your command.

[Al-Husayni] I am a politician. I cannot serve as a police commander. We have domestic security experts for this.

[Avidan] Do you believe Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi might quit the negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] He will not quit if the negotiations progress. He might quit if there is no progress. In any event, I believe that we have an opportunity to move forward. Things are already running well.

Multilateral Talks on Water Rights Continue in Geneva

Palestinian Ultimatum Rejected

TA2904141893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Israel has rejected the Palestinian demand, presented as an ultimatum, for the construction of a water channel from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip as a condition for pursuing discussions in the multilateral talks' water committee.

Our political correspondent reports that the water committee convening in Geneva is due to conclude its debates today.

Talks Near 'Collapse'

TA2904203993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The multilateral convention on the water issue held in Geneva was several times on the verge of collapse today, after the Palestinians firmly demanded to discuss their water rights in the territories. The demand was rejected by Israel, which asserted that the water rights should be discussed in the Washington talks. Our correspondent in Geneva Hayim Yavin reports:

[Begin recording] [Yavin] The Israeli delegation maintained an open telephone line to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to prevent the convention from collapsing or, worse, to avoid surrendering to the Palestinian ultimatum to discuss their water rights then and there.

As the convention hall turned before our eyes into its primary designation—a banquet hall—Israel held rapprochement talks with the PLO and face-to-face talks with the Palestinians in adjoining rooms. In the lobby, the U.S. chairman made hectic attempts to save this round of talks.

The Palestinians waited for instructions from PLO-Tunis. For them, Washington and Geneva, water rights and land rights, are all one and the same.

[Chief Jordanian representative Mundhir Haddadin, in English] He has been kicked out of his home, he has been denied his human rights, he has been occupied for so many years, and he has to be assured that he would be protected as he put his hand in yours.

[Palestinian delegate (Sa'id 'Asaf), in English] I think we should have equal human rights, equal water rights, equal environmental rights, equal everything rights. And you are having useless agriculture in Israel, useless, that you are not producing any money out of—and you know it. Their mangoes is losing; their avocados is losing; your oranges are losing. You're losing in all the irrigated crops. Why are you going into irrigated crops when you can use this water for drinking for us?

[Yavin] Sitting in his room on the 17th floor is Ahmad (Abu-Hajla), the multilaterals' coordinator on behalf of the PLO. It is from here that the Palestinian delegation receives its instructions.

[(Abu-Hajla)], in English; broadcast in progress] ...and we can't go to a building from the second floor, keeping the base of the building. The water rights is the base of the building where we can build the building of peace. That's our understanding.

[Yavin, in English] But surely, the water problem, the water rights problem, is a political issue, and a political issue should be dealt with in the bilateral talks in Washington?

[(Abu-Hajla), in English] If you deny for me to speak about water rights, then you deny any kind of rights for me. If you recognize my right in the water issue, and I recognize later on your rights in the water issue, later on we can walk both together in correct way. [end recording]

[Yavin] The delegations kept leaving the conference room for consultations. The American chairman procrastinated in an attempt to find a compromise. The Palestinians demanded quite a lot: a discussion of their demand for a water carrier from Samaria to Gaza and of the Palestinian right to title to water resources in the territories. Israel rejected these demands outright.

Another round of conversations with Jerusalem was this time conducted from outside the building. The answer was unequivocal: Water rights are an issue for the bilateral talks in Washington, not for Geneva. The Israelis were willing to accept a survey team on behalf of the convention that would examine the Middle East water issue. However, the Israeli compromise proposals stood no chance.

Avraham Katz-'Oz, the Israeli delegation head saw the delay as merely temporary:

[Katz-'Oz] The talks have not collapsed. We feared they would, but today we learned that the Palestinians also want the talks to go on. We are glad, because we definitely do not want the talks to collapse. It is possible that the agreements we believed would be achieved in a working group in this round are not going to be achieved in full. Some of them have been achieved, though. Later, there will be another phase in the bilaterals, and after progress is achieved there, we will return to the multilaterals.

[Yavin] The Geneva water talks have reached the moment of truth. Right now, the bone of contention is not the development of water resources demanded by Israel, but water rights demanded by the Palestinians—a totally political issue devoid of any hydraulic aspects. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 29 April adds: "The current round of multilateral talks on water issues has ended in Geneva. The Palestinians said the discussions were a total fiasco. Their delegation head convened a news conference, where he said that the responsibility for the failure lies with Israel. The Palestinians, he said, will not agree to attend seminars or any other activity pertaining to the multilateral working group on water issues. However, a Palestinian delegation will attend the next round of talks in Beijing in September."]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head on Peace Talks, Iraq, Libya

NC2904154193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that he will tour the Arab world soon to clarify the atmosphere and restore solidarity among Arab states.

During a news conference today at Arab League Headquarters, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized that he is determined to restore this solidarity as soon as possible to enable the Arab world to face its challenges, particularly the peace process.

He said the Arab world is experiencing some differences of opinion, because the Gulf crisis left a deep wound. He remarked, however, that history has shown that the Arabs have managed to overcome even graver problems.

Touching on the situation in Iraq, 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the League insists on international legitimacy and that Iraq recognizes this legitimacy. He noted that efforts are under way to release frozen Iraqi funds to help the Iraqis meet their food needs and pay dues owed to the Arab League and the United Nations.

Commenting on the Libyan-Western crisis, 'Abd-al-Majid said that contacts are continuing with the concerned states. We were recently concerned with avoiding stiffer sanctions, he said, expressing hope that the problem will be resolved in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy without infringing on Libya's sovereignty.

'Abd-al-Majid added that the League is in continuous contact with Iraq regarding the Kuwaiti POW's. He said he will contact the chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross to follow up on this issue.

Speaking on the Middle East crisis, the secretary general affirmed that the Arab League is interested in reaching a just and comprehensive peace. Noting that the Arab cause is just, 'Abd-al- Majid said: We have right on our side, because we have committed no aggression against anyone. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called on Israel to respect and comply with the UN Security Council resolutions.

He noted that the Chinese Government has agreed to open an Arab League office in Beijing.

Concluding his remarks, 'Abd-al-Majid congratulated the Eritreans on gaining independence. He noted that Eritrea has set an example in its struggle.

Arab Boycott Officers Conclude Conference in Damascus

JN2904164993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 29 Apr (SANA)—The 66th conference of the regional liaison officers of the Arab boycott of Israel concluded work at noon today under Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general for boycotting Israel, after discussing approximately 42 topics related to the mechanism, missions, and role of the Arab Boycott Office.

Muhammad al-'Ajami, the Arab boycott's regional director in Syria, told SANA correspondent today that the conference discussed a number of general and individual topics related to certain firms. Some of these firms were checked by the boycott organs. Some of these topics were settled after certain firms were acquitted when it was proved that they had severed their relations with Israel. The conference endorsed the ban on the firms whose relations with Israel, contrary to the rules of boycott, have been confirmed.

Al-'Ajami added that dealings with the Jistedner [name as received] firm was banned for the second time. Its name was submitted to the Arab League Council, and some delegations had reservations about removing this firm from the black list. He said that two companies were boycotted after confirming their participation in the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories. They are Jikomital [name as received], a Yugoslav firm; and Electro Impex, a Bulgarian firm. A Czech airline company was checked for taking part in the transportation of Jewish settlers to Palestine, but this matter was considered settled.

Al-'Ajami added that the boycott organs are following some airline companies who reportedly transport Jewish settlers to occupied Palestine. This is because the transportation, in itself, is a violation of the boycott rules. This requires that dealings with them be banned. He explained that the Syrian, Palestinian, and Iraqi delegations have reservations about lifting the ban on some foreign firms whose violations of the boycott rules have been confirmed.

Arab Oil Investment Body Suspends Iraq's Profits Payment

LD2504090493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1053 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Apr (KUNA)—Salih Ali al-Haddad, adviser to the oil minister, said today that the general assembly of the Arab Company for Petroleum Investments agreed at its recent meeting in Cairo to suspend Iraq's share of the company's profits—which is 10 percent—equivalent to $2 million, and not to pay it to the Iraqi Government.

Al-Haddad, who also holds the post of Kuwait's representative in the Arab Company for Petroleum Investments, told KUNA that the agreement to suspend Iraq's share of these profits was based on a Kuwaiti proposal.

He pointed out that the general assembly of the Arab Company for Petroleum Investments agreed to pay out the profits of $20 million to shareholders in cash. It also approved the general budget and the statement of income and expenditure for the fiscal year ending 31 December 1992. Mr. Haddad said that the paid-up capital of the company was $400 million and that the total value of titles owned by shareholders on 31 December 1992 had reached approximately $552 million.

The shareholders in the company are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, with 17 percent of the shares each, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, with 15 percent, Qatar, with 10 percent, Algeria, with 5 per cent, Syria, Bahrain and Egypt, with 3 percent each, and Iraq, with 10 percent.

Maghreb News Agencies Meet To Discuss Archive Services

LD2904131393 Rabat MAP in English 1241 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 29 (MAP/POOL/UMA)—Maghreban news agencies must master the technological revolution in the archives field to keep pace with the huge evolution of this sector, director general of the Moroccan news agency 'MAGHREB ARABE PRESSE' (MAP) Abdeljalil Fenjiro Wednesday said.

In an opening address of the 2nd meeting of heads of archive services of the Maghreban news agencies, Fenjiro recalled that directors of these agencies had recommended further cooperation between their archive services.

During their 3rd conference held last November in Nouakchott, the directors underlined the necessity to create a thesaurus in the five Maghreban news agencies, to exchange documents and data pending the launching of the pool bulletin of the UMA news agencies, Fenjiro said.

The Nouakchott conference also stressed the need to study the technical means to create a joint data bank and to link the archives services to the news rooms within the frame of the computerization of Maghreban agencies, he said.

Since its creation, three decades ago MAP gives special interest to the archives service, Fenjiro said adding that map archives center contains genuine cultural and information treasures and is consulted by over 2000 users per year.

The 2nd meeting of heads of archive services of Maghreban news agencies to wind up this Thursday is discussing the exchange of documents and data, the launching of a Maghreban pool bulletin, the creation of a thesaurus in the five Maghreban news agencies as well as the setting up of a data bank.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Conference Winds Down

Pakistan's Leghari Speaks

BK2904121193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1035 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Pakistan Foreign Minister Farooq Ahmed Leghari's address at the closing session of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Karachi—live]

[Text] Your royal highnesses, excellencies, distinguished guests. We have reached the end of our conference after four days of very meaningful and concrete deliberations on important issues of interest and concern to Islamic ummah [community]. It is indeed a matter of immense satisfaction for us that the 21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers has concluded on a successful note due to the outstanding contributions of so many foreign ministers from brotherly Islamic countries as well as other members of the delegations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the foreign ministers as well as the distinguished delegates who participated in this conference. I would also like to convey our deep appreciation and gratitude to his excellency Mr. Hamid al- Ghabid, the secretary general of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], for his tireless efforts to promote the aspirations of the ummah. I also wish to thank the members of the Secretariat for their invaluable assistance and support in ensuring the success of this conference.

The 21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers met in difficult times when the ummah is confronted by multifaceted challenges. It is a measure of the success of our deliberations that despite all the difficulties we faced, we were able to evolve consensus on the vital issues on our heavy agenda. The conference took cognizance of the urgent threat in Bosnia-Herzegovina and took action by sending a clear message that Serbian aggression must be stopped and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina permitted their right to self- defense under the charter. It is a reflection of the profound concern of the ummah that the (?present) conference on Bosnia- Herzegovina has elicited a major response for the just cause of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On the festering issue of Jammu and Kashmir, where every attempt is being made to crush by brute force the struggle of Kashmiri people for self-determination, the conference has adopted a resolution which seeks a halt to the massive violations of human rights and a negotiated solution to this dispute in accordance with the UN resolution.

On the Middle East question, we have supported the ongoing peace process. Our decision should strengthen the hands of our brothers to negotiate a solution which is based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The recent conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has also been addressed. The resolution calls for the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territory and supports the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The conference has also sought to promote the security of the Islamic countries by promoting measures for disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia and other regions of the Islamic world.

This session of the conference also successfully addressed a number of other important issues. It condemned the destruction of the Babri Mosque and called for its reconstruction at its original site. It adopted a strategy for poverty alleviation, especially for least developed and low income countries. It proposed revival of the north-south Dialogue, continued financial support to developing ICO countries, expansion of trade access and promotion of cultural, economic and commercial cooperation among Muslim countries. It established a working group to deal with the problem of terrorism which afflicts the Islamic countries as much as others.

Excellencies, your presence in our country is testimony to the support and solidarity which Pakistan enjoys in the Islamic world. Our abiding commitment to Islamic causes predates the creation of Pakistan. The historic occasion in Mrach 1940, when the Muslims of South Asia formally demanded the creation of Pakistan, also witnessed the adoption of a resolution upholding the right of the Palestinians. Soon after, the Muslims of South Asia also demanded the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt. They actively supported Indonesia's struggle for national independence. They opposed the occupation in 1941 of parts of Iran by Britain and Russia. In the words of our founding father, because of, quote, abiding interest in the freedom and prosperity of the Muslim states, unquote, all over the world. In the same spirit, they called for the abolition of the British and French mandate in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon and they demanded the liberation of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. Following its independence, Pakistan extended full support to the freedom movements of each one of these brotherly countries. Thus, the bonds, which tie us to each one of you are deep and unshakable. They have been further reinforced by our cooperation at this conference. In concluding, May I reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the Government and people of Pakistan to the causes of the ummah and our unflinching resolve to promote unity and solidarity in its rank. I wish you all a most pleasant and safe journey back to your countries. I hope you will take back fond memories of your brief sojourn to Pakistan and come back to visit your brothers and sisters in Pakistan in the near future. [applause]

Now, we have finished our work and I declare closed the 21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers. I thank you.

Libya Offers France Help in Bombing Probe

BK2904115693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1135 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] KARACHI, April 29 (AFP)—Libya is "extending a hand" toward France and wants the judge investigating the mid-flight explosion that destroyed a French airliner to come to Libya "soon," Foreign Minister 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir said Thursday.

"He is welcome to come when he wants but he must come to Libya in a civilized way," al-Muntasir told AFP on the sidelines of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] here.

During a plenary meeting of the OIC, which wrapped up its sessions here Thursday, the Libyan foreign minister accused Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere of acting "like he was in the 16th century."

He accused Brugiere of taking a hostile stance toward Libya which was "unacceptable" to the Libyan government.

Although Libya has been linked to the 1988 explosion of a Pan-Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland which killed 270 people and the 1989 bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger which killed 171, al-Muntasir insisted that Libya was not involved "in any kind of terrorism" and that the United Nations was welcome to send a team to the country to verify that claim.

Al-Muntasir said Libyan commercial ties with France—unlike with Britain and the United States—had remained strong, mainly because Paris had declined to break diplomatic relations with Tripoli, as did London and Washington.

PLO's Qaddumi on Palestinian Aid Package

BK2904140693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] KARACHI, April 29 (AFP)—Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi said Thursday he was "not very" satisfied with financial aid pledged to Palestine by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO].

The OIC, ending its foreign ministers' meeting in the southern Pakistan city of Karachi, promised 10 million U.S. dollars for a Jerusalem fund.

Some reports surfaced during the 21st OIC session saying Saudi Arabia had said the OIC was unable to pledge greater sums to Palestine because Bosnia was the priority.

Qaddumi told AFP: "Bosnia should be supported, but Palestine should also be supported."

Asked whether he was satisfied with the multi-million-dollar pledge, he said: "Not very."

Bosnian officials said pledges from the 51 OIC member countries attending the conference totalled more than 60 million dollars, well below a requested 250 million dollars.

The money is to be used to repair infrastructure in the war-torn Balkan republic, where Slavic Moslems have been battling Orthodox Serbs for more than a year after voting to withdraw from the former Yugoslavia.

Qaddumi was also dissatisfied that, unlike previous years, no Palestinian was assigned to any of the four OIC deputy secretary posts distributed at the end of the conference.

The Palestinian delegation had proposed a fifth post be created and a Palestinian be named to it, but the proposal met with heavy Saudi opposition.

A committee set up to study the creation of a fifth post is to present its conclusions at the next OIC session in Tunis.

The OIC's strongest backing for Palestinians was contained in resolutions drawn up at the conference echoing earlier OIC resolutions calling for a total Israeli retreat all from Arab-occupied territories and proclaiming the Palestinian right to create their own state with Jerusalem as the capital.

Communique Issued at Final Session

BK2904145593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic foreign ministers have condemned the massive human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. The 21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers concluded in Karachi after adopting a final communique.

The conference calls for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. The conference endorsed the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general's report on Jammu and Kashmir calling upon member states to take necessary steps to persuade India to cease forthwith massive human rights violations and enable Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self- determination. The conference called upon India to allow international human rights groups and humanitrian organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir. It also regretted the negative attitude of India to Pakistan's proposal for a bilateral dialogue for resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and supported Pakistan's efforts to initiate bilateral dialogue for resolving the dispute. It also called on India to respond positively to these efforts. Expressing deep concern at the prevailing tension, the foreign ministers called upon India and Pakistan to deploy their forces to peace-time locations. The foreign ministers asked India to avail the offer of good offices made by the 20th Islamic ministers conference. The conference asked the ICO secretary general to send a three-member fact-finding mission to visit occupied Kashmir and urged India to allow this mission to undertake this visit. An appeal has also been made to the member states and Islamic organizations to mobilize funds and contribute generously to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

The conference also expressed deep concern over the killing of Muslims and aggression against their holy places in the world. It also strongly condemned the destruction of the historic Babri Masjid [mosque] by extremist Hindus.

The conference also strongly condemned the genocidal Serb aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for immediate implementation of the ICO and UN resolutions on Bosnia. The conference reaffirmed its commitment to restore peace in Bosnia and safeguard its unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity. It also urged the member states and international community to extend their cooperation to Bosnia-Herzegovina in exercise of its right of self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter. The conference also decided on the reconvening of the the UN General Assembly session in Bosnia in case the Security Council is unable to deal effectively with Serbian aggression. The conference reaffirmed that the Palestine and al- Qods and Al-Sharif [Jerusalem] are the prime cause of Arab-Israel conflict. It also reaffirmed the establishment of an independent Palestine state with al-Qods al-Sharif as its capital and expressed complete support to the Palestinians in their just struggle. The foreign ministers also expressed their deep concern over the Israeli acts of terrorism, suppression, killing, and deportation. It also supported the peace efforts aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East.

The conference also condemned Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and demanded immediate withdrawal of the invading forces. It reiterated its commitment to promote peace in Afghanistan and the preservation of unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Somalia. It also supported the cause of the Turkish Cypriot community and expressed solidarity with the Muslims in the southern Philippines. The conference reiterated that the security of each Muslim country is the concern of all Islamic countries.

The conference asked the regional states to respond positively to the proposal of establishing of nuclear weapons free zones in South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The conference also expressed its deep concern over Israel's nuclear armament.

The conference also reiterated its support for convening of a United Nations conference to define terrorism and distinguish it from the struggle of people for national liberation.

The conference called upon the member states to make efforts for promoting economic and commercial cooperation. It expressed its concern over the imbalances in the prevailing international economic relations.

The five-day conference was attended by 51 member states and delegations of various Muslim organizations. Speaking at the concluding session on behalf of the Asian countries, the Malaysian foreign minister thanked the government and people of Pakistan for hosting the conference. Addressing the conference on behalf of the Arab group, the Jordanian foreign minister said the Muslim ummah [community] is much stronger than before and we must forge unity to face the challenges ahead. The foreign minister of Niger, speaking on behalf of the African countries, said the Karachi conference will prove a milestone in the history of the ICO. In its concluding remarks, the chairman of the conference, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari said the conference was held at a difficult time. He said it is heartening to note that we have evolved a consensus on vital issues. He said the Karachi declaration gives a clear message to the world about the worries of the Muslim ummah on the burning issues of Kashmir, Bosnia, Palestine and the Middle East and their commitment to resolve them.

Addressing a news conference after the concluding session, the chairman of the current session, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari said: [Begin Leghari recording] The conveying of this conference is a realization of our deepest aspirations of Islamic unity and cooperation. We feel that the Karachi conference has been an outstanding success. It has greatly advanced the realization of the theme of the conference which was Islamic unity and cooperation for peace justice and progress. [end recording]

On this occasion the secretary general of the ICO, Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, said the Karachi declaration reflects the feelings and determination of the Muslim ummah.

Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid told newsmen that the next conference of the Islamic foreign ministers will be held in Tunisia. He said with collective determination and unity the ummah can meet the current challenges.

U.S. Aggression Against Libya Condemned

BK2904165293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers have called for peaceful settlement of Kashmir dispute, condemned Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, supported the Afghan peace accord, and peace efforts in the Middle East, and urged withdrawal of all Armenian forces from Azerbaijan. The foreign ministers, at the end of their conference in Karachi today, adopted a declaration endorsing recommendations of the ICO secretary general on the Kashmir dispute. [passage omitted]

The conference reiterated its commitment to promotion of peace and security in Afghanistan and appealed for implementation of the peace accord. The conference strongly condemned Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and demanded immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azeri territory.

It also condemned continuing American aggression against Libya and reaffirmed its solidarity with Libya in defending its territorial integrity. [passage omitted contained in referent item]

Iran's Velayati on Session

LD2904181593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, took part in an interview with our correspondent in Pakistan after the end of the meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

In response to the question of our correspondent about the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran which have been approved by that meeting, Mr. Velayati said: In that meeting, the Islamic Republic of Iran set forth a number of proposals. After about five days of discussions in various committees, finally most of those proposals were approved today in the closing session.

Our first proposal was about Bosnia. We had asked that the member countries of the contact group [as heard] at the level of foreign ministers should make use of this opportunity, and this smaller group should have a meeting alongside the sessions of the foreign ministers' meeting. This meeting was convened and it led to the approval of a 32-article resolution which was approved in an extraordinary fashion and out of turn before the end of the session. This resolution was cabled to New York, the seat of the United Nations Organization. In view of the fact that we were on the eve of the decision taken by the UN Security Council about Bosnia, this message was sent by about a third of the UN member countries.

Another resolution which was drawn up by the Islamic Republic of Iran and was approved after many hours of discussion and some amendments and changes was the resolution for coordination among the Islamic countries in the international human rights meeting in Vienna which will be held in Khordad [month starting 22 May]. The significant point about this resolution is that Islamic values and Islamic teachings should not be ignored and should not be over-shadowed by resorting to the excuse of human rights.

Velayati on Satanic Verses Edict

LD2904212693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] In the final statement of the concluding session of the member states of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], representatives of 51 Islamic states emphasized His Eminence Imam Khomeyni's edict concerning the apostasy of the author of the Satanic Verses.

In an interview with our correspondent on this issue, the foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, said:

[Begin recording] [Velayati] Another resolution which was adopted by the ICO was a confirmation of a resolution from the 18th session of the ICO in Riyadh, concerning the blasphemous book Satanic Verses. By today's final approval of the foreign ministers, in reality 51 Islamic states of the world have confirmed the very same idea that His Eminence, the Imam [Khomeyni]—may God Almighty be pleased with him—had regarding the author of that blasphemous book; the same thing that they approved in Riyadh. This demonstrates and reveals the lie told by some Western circles, who, in reality seek to depict the issue of the blasphemous book, Satanic Verses, as an Iranian issue, whereas this is an Islamic matter. The whole of the world of Islam is united against this book and its promoters. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Iranian, Iraqi, Qatari Ministers Meet

NC3004070693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Our foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, met and held talks with the Iraqi and Qatari foreign ministers on the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Karachi.

According to IRNA, in the meeting between Velayati and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi foreign minister, the two sides exchanged views on important regional and international issues.

In the meeting between our foreign minister and [Qatari Foreign Minister] Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, broadening of bilateral relations was stressed.

Ministers Support Nuclear-Free Zones

BK3004031693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference has urged the member countries to wholeheartedly help a small member country if it requests help in strengthening its security. In a communique, the conference said that it is the duty of all Islamic countries to ensure the security of every Islamic country. The conference expressed its firm determination to ensure the security of member countries in accordance with the ICO and UN charters.

The ICO foreign ministers conference has reaffirmed all its earlier resolutions on South Africa and condemned the policy of apartheid. It urged the world community to take all necessary steps to convince the Pretoria regime to accelerate the process of abolishing apartheid and to create necessary conditions for the establishment of a democratic society and negotiations. It congratulated the people of Eritrea on the success of their struggle for their right to self-determination and independence.

The conference has asked all countries, especially relevant countries of the region, to express a positive response to the proposals for the creation of nuclear-free zones in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. It asked the member countries to work speedily for an international convention so that a mechanism can be evolved which will prevent the use of nuclear weapons against non- nuclear countries or the threat to use nuclear weapons against them. The conference has called for destroying all weapons of mass destruction, especially the nuclear weapons, so as to free the world from all sorts of danger.

Hamid al-Gabid, the ICO secretary general, has said that the Islamic foreign ministers conference has been successful in that consensus has been reached on a number of issues facing the Islamic world. Addressing a news conference in Karachi yesterday, he said that Pakistan has played its role very well in running the affairs of various ICO committees, thereby helping the delegates in achieving positive results.

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Said Seeking To Resettle Palestinians in Lebanon

NC2904143493 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 21

[Report by Fatimah Sayyid Ahmad]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have affirmed that the participants in the peace negotiations, which are scheduled to resume in Washington tomorrow, Tuesday, will discuss a secret U.S. memorandum of understanding which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher submitted during his recent tour to the region.

The sources revealed that the memorandum provides for the resettlement of between 400,000 and 500,000 Palestinians already in Lebanon and granting them Lebanese citizenship.

The Palestinian delegation agreed to participate in the negotiations after all the cordon states who recently met in Damascus supported the resumption of the negotiations.

The sources said that the U.S. plan was previously proposed by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and was rejected by the PLO and the Arab states. The plan was to be implemented in Lebanon, Jordan, and some Gulf states, including Kuwait, because of the presence of large number of Palestinians there. The Gulf war helped to achieve three strategic goals in this regard:

1. Solving the problem of Palestinian resettlement and its possible dangers in the Gulf.

2. Withdrawing the political one-upmanship card of the Palestinian issue from Iraq's hands.

3. Reaching the oil fields and siphoning off surplus oil revenues.

As a result of the war, Jordan became the center of the Palestinian presence, which fulfilled another goal of gathering the largest number of Palestinians there. This was consistent with the U.S. vision of a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict in the area.

The sources affirmed that Lebanon is currently the primary focus of U.S. policy as conditions there are good for the resettlement of the Palestinians.

The sources also affirmed that the resettlement decision has actually been made and was conveyed by Christopher to all the parties. He also made solving Lebanon's economic problems and Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon contingent on the plan's implementation.

The sources were not sure about the PLO's position on this plan. Some said that the Organization rejected it, while others said the PLO's agreement to resume the negotiations means it has approved the plan.

Al-Khatib Denies Reports of Return to Peace Talks

PM2904135393 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p 3

[Ilyas Nasrallah report: "Al-Khatib Denies Reports of His Return to Negotiations"]

[Text] London—Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has announced that he is satisfied and that he did exactly what he should have done by not attending the ninth round of negotiations, which began in Washington yesterday.

Last Wednesday Al-Khatib and his colleague in the delegation Dr. Sami 'Abdallah announced the suspension of their participation in the ninth round of negotiations because of the lack of guarantees of the implementation of the verbal U.S. and Israeli promises made to the Palestinians for the sake of their return to the negotiations.

Al-Khatib, speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from the West Bank yesterday, denied reports that he has joined the delegation which arrived in Washington the day before yesterday. He said that no changes have occurred in the Israeli position to prompt him to change his position and return to the negotiations.

Reports spoke about contacts between the PLO leadership in Tunis and the Palestinian People's Party leadership in the occupied territories to persuade it to change its position and and agree to its representatives' joining the negotiating delegation in Washington.

Al-Khatib said that the aim of suspending his and his colleague Dr. 'Abdallah's participation in the negotiations is to exert pressure to achieve further gains.

Al-Khatib emphasized that his return to the negotiations depends on a change in the Israelis' behavior on the ground and their submission of proposals that are in line with the spirit of the peace process in a manner that confirms the usefulness of the peace process.

Editorial Says Israeli Gestures for Peace Not Enough

TA2904174093 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Washington Is Called Upon to Fulfill Its Promises"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concentrated on three points in his remarks yesterday to the heads of the delegations to the peace talks in Washington. These points indicate the United State's seriousness in advancing the peace process. The three points are: Adherence to the land for peace principle, the political rights of the Palestinians, and the neutrality that Washington will pursue as a full partner in the talks. If this shift came as a surprise to the Arab delegations, undoubtedly this initiative shows the seriousness of the U.S. decision to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, reach settlements between the parties, and begin settling the Palestinian problem.

Christopher expressed the problem very candidly when he called on the parties to engage in substantive issues in the talks, put aside procedural issues, and not waste time on marginal matters. The situation in the region requires an acceleration to contain the crisis given the probable explosion of the Middle East arena should the talks fail. Then security and stability for the region's peoples would be realized, so that they may develop and progress after long decades of wars and the ensuing devastation and displacement.

If Washington and Israel have approached the moment of truth, should we feel optimistic that the talks in the ninth round will bear fruit by resolving the region's problems and achieving a just and comprehensive peace there? As the only superpower controlling the world's destiny, Washington realizes that it bears responsibility for eliminating hotbeds of regional tension to achieve world peace. In the Middle East region where the United States has strategic interests, there is an acute need to end squabbles and conflicts and prevent any threats to those interests.

If the Arabs and the Palestinians, as well as the Israelis, feel that they are at a crossroads and that action is required to end the conflict, the steps promised by Israel as an expression of goodwill are incompatible with the scope of the problem. There is need to put an end to the collective punishment which Israel practices, whether by imposing a military siege on the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem; collective deportations; or depriving Palestinian workers from their source of livelihood. Israel is expected to take steps toward easing the Palestinian people's burden in this suffering. All those practices aggravate the situation, lead to violence and confrontation, and create a climate that does not inspire confidence between the parties. If Israel is actually serious in reaching a settlement with the Palestinians, in addition to engaging in a constructive dialogue at the negotiating table, a formula must be found to ease Israeli practices against the Palestinian people.

As much as the Palestinian people wish to end the conflict and reach a settlement that preserves the dignity of the Palestinians, they will still entertain doubts about Israel's seriousness as long as the practices remain.

After Christopher's remarks, the United States is required to act to bring about this change in Israeli policy toward the residents in the occupied territories. Before talking about withdrawal or autonomy, this suffering to which the Palestinian people are being subjected mut be ended. The Palestinian decision to participate in the talks under these difficult circumstances which our people are experiencing was one of the most difficult decisions ever made. Palestinian voices calling for a halt to these talks have grown, because the talks are considered futile and without a favorable outcome.

Israel is called upon to review its policies, intensify efforts, and offer facilities on the ground to convince the skeptics that the talks are not a waste of time and that there will be positive developments. This will arouse a spirit of optimism and create a suitable climate for endorsing whatever results the negotiators might reach that satisfy the region's peoples, foremost of all the Palestinian people.

Sources Conflict on Number of Deportees To Return 30 Apr

TA2904163693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] More than 10 deportees will return via the Allenby Bridge tomorrow. This was reported by Palestinian sources, who said an agreement to this effect was reached in Washington this afternoon. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 29 April cites "military sources" as saying "today" that "at least five of the 30 returning deportees will go home via the Allenby Bridge tomorrow morning."]

Our correspondent notes that the returnees will be welcomed by a mass reception in Jericho and a rally in Ramallah, which were organized by a special Palestinian committee.

Those returning tomorrow include Hanna Nasir, once the Bi'r Zayt University president, and 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, a former al-Birah mayor.

Hamas Delegation To Pay 'Secret' Visit to Qatar

TA2904141493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Palestinian sources have disclosed that a delegation comprising top Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders, led by Musa Marzuq, head of Hamas political committee, intends to pay a visit, described as "secret," to Qatar.

Those sources said that the delegation will confer with officials there about increasing financial aid to Hamas in light of the difficult financial straits from which it is suffering. The delegation will also discuss the possibility of opening a Hamas office in Qatar and expanding Qatari media coverage of Hamas activity.

Postponement of Palestinian Khartoum Meeting Explained

AB2804162493 Khartoum SUNA in French 0920 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Apr (SUNA)—The delegation of the Palestinian al-Fatih movement, which is now on a visit to the country, held a news conference in Khartoum on 26 April. During the news conference the delegation spoke about the reasons for the postponement of the meeting with the Hamas movement which was due to take place in Khartoum on 26 April.

Mr. 'Ali Abu Shahin, a member of the Central Committee of the al- Fatih movement, said that the postponement of the meeting was due to the delay of the date fixed in agreement with the general secretariat of the Arab-Islamic People's Congress. [sentence as received]

Mr. Shahin also said that dialogue with the Hamas movement might strengthen the Palestinian people's struggle, the aim of which is to put an end to the Zionist occupation of Palestinian territories, adding that the dialogue was likely to help implement free national decision for the Palestinian people.

Besides, the member of the al-Fatih movement Central Committee said that his movement knew everything taking place in Sudan, while stressing Sudan's leading role in sponsoring dialogue between the two movements, al-Fatih and Hamas, with a view to achieving Palestinian unity.

Mr. Shahin also said that the accusation that Sudan had exported terrorism was another plot to be added to others conducted against a number of Arab countries, adding that imperialist powers did not want Sudan to become self-sufficient in food production and thus export her surplus to foreign countries.

It is worth noting that the al-Fatih and Hamas movements had held a meeting in Khartoum last January during which they agreed to continue the dialogue between them in order to strengthen the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Egypt

Musa Returns, Comments on Peace Negotiations

NC2904182893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Abu Dhabi this afternoon following a visit to Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. [passage omitted]

Musa said on arrival that the issue of terrorism in the name of Islam—the topic of the hour—was the main issue discussed during the meetings of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers and subcommittees in Pakistan. He added that there is a general feeling among Muslim countries that the image of Islam has been greatly distorted because there are people practicing terrorism in the name of Islam and alarming other societies.

Musa said it was agreed to take measures to stop this deterioration and insult to Islam, adding that there are committees that will discuss this matter and soon present the relevant resolutions. [passage omitted]

On the repeated postponement of meetings of the economy and foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries, the foreign minister said that the postponement this time concerned the dates and the host capital's preparations and that agreement was reached to hold a meeting for the economy ministers on 18 May and for the foreign ministers on 12 June.

On the peace negotiations, Musa said that the current round is a useful and important one and that it would be very dangerous if this round ends without reaching results, adding that the intransigent side will be responsible for the collapse of the peace process. He also said that the ninth round is the criterion that will constitute the basis for the negotiations from now on.

Further Comments on Peace Process

NC2904184193 London MBC Television in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by correspondent Nasir Farghali in Karachi, Pakistan; date not given; from the "Face to Face" program—recorded]

[Text] [Farghali] The main issue in the Arab arena now is the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, which start today. What is the nature of Egypt's role at this stage of the negotiations? Is Egyptian diplomacy present in Washington?

[Musa] We are present as far as the entire peace process is concerned. We are not involved in the negotiations in a specific capital. We are not involved in whether the negotiations continue or are adjourned from one round to the next. But the Egyptian role is continuing so as to help within the Arab framework and within the wider non-Arab framework. We are exploiting Egypt's many contacts with the various parties, the cosponsors, and Israel. Of course, as an Arab country, Egypt constantly coordinates with the fraternal countries and Arab parties. The peace process is a difficult and complicated one. It is not an easy process of just two delegations sitting together to talk. The issue involves many historical, geographical, legal, and political factors, the current conditions, the future outlook, and etc. All these matters first require consultations among the Arab parties. They require finding out the other parties' views. They also require coordination with the parties that need such coordination. In view of the special Palestinian conditions, the Palestinian party requires extra care. Egypt's diplomacy is in fact placing itself at the disposal of the Arab parties, and specifically the Palestinian party. As I said, there also is the exploitation of the many and varied contacts we have with the other parties.

[Farghali] Would this new round of talks have taken place without the diplomatic efforts that were crowned by President Husni Mubarak's tour of a number of European capitals and the United States?

[Musa] The ninth round—that is, the phase of preparing for it—was in fact characterized by a lot of difficulties. It required many contacts. We do not claim that we were the only ones who made these contacts and were active. But we held a lot of contacts, acted extensively, made a lot of preparations, and coordinated extensively with others.

[Farghali] What is the scenario—or has a scenario in fact started to take shape—within Arab diplomacy about ending the Arab-Israeli conflict? Is there at least an ideal scenario or goal?

[Musa] The ideal scenario is known. But the ideal one is the simplest, the easiest one. We must look at the practical scenario and the framework for effecting the peace process, the peaceful settlement. There is, for example, a precedent, namely that of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in accordance with Resolution 242. This was done within the framework of direct negotiations. We are today within the framework of direct negotiations. Resolution 242 is the basis: land in return for peace. We must rely on such a reality, the example of what happened in Sinai. But negotiations must continue, and all the parties must be ready to negotiate actively. When you negotiate, you are not negotiating with the public, the media, or to declare a specific political gain. The question is much more than this. It is a question of land, rights, and security. These questions require cool-headed negotiations at times. Of course, they require political maneuvering, which can be conducted under certain conditions. But these questions are extremely serious. The Arabs will pay a higher price than any party for wasting time. Therefore, the scenario must be the practical one, which is established on specific rules and bases: legal bases, the UN resolutions. We should find out which is the best concept for reaching the basis for this work.

[Farghali] Supposing that a practical scenario will actually take place, is there a concept of the future relations that might link the region's countries with Israel?

[Musa] First, regarding the practical scenario, it must be clear that there is a framework and limits. A practical scenario does not mean that we agree on anything. Practical means that the scenario is within the context of the principle of land for peace, the Palestinian people's rights, and security for all. It also means that land cannot be forsaken, which means the impermissibility of seizing land by force, that expansion is rejected, and so forth; in other words, there are certain limits. This is a practical scenario. A practical scenario in particular means that you cannot take everything in return for nothing; this is impossible.

This means peace in exchange for land so that peace will be established, which is a known fact. We must take the land, and the Israelis should realize this.

As for the region, yes there is a concept. There is a general framework, ongoing multilateral talks, and there is a definition of peace. Peace means relations and dealing with one another. The dealing does not have to be codified; dealing means to begin normalizing the situation in the Middle East. The concept of relations and the region within the context of peace is completely different from the regional situation in the context of war, the existing relations, and the non-existent, or rather the almost nonexistent, dealing.

[Farghali] We now move to Egypt's relations with the Arabs and Iraq. The Iraqi Government recently attempted to open communication channels with Egypt, and I believe that there is now indeed a minimal level of contacts. What are the prospects and conditions for developing these relations?

[Musa] With deep regret, inter-Arab relations generally are still passing through a difficult phase due to the invasion of Kuwait and its ramifications. The effects of these events are still present in the minds of many Arabs; therefore, any significant development in inter-Arab relations at present seems difficult. But this does not hinder the initiation of efforts to develop inter-Arab ties so that we can restore them to normal as soon as possible. In fact, the image of inter-Arab relations is negative, and there has been no change in the situation so far.

[Farghali] What about Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Musa] Regrettably, there is crisis and tension between the two fraternal countries, the responsibility for which, in my view, lies with the Sudanese policy, particularly in the Arab arena. Therefore, you find that Sudan's Arab relations in general are not good. This is not confined to Egyptian-Sudanese ties. You find that many Arab societies, political circles, and governments are severely critical of Sudan's political policy.

As for Egypt and Sudan, there is tension, the reasons for which are known. Reasons for this tension must be removed to end this situation. Actually, Egyptian-Sudanese ties must be ideal and strong and able to stand up to the developments and events taking place in the Arab world or in Sudan, or rather around Egypt and Sudan. We must mention a point here: It is important that all efforts be devoted to dealing with the Arab situation and ties in a better way and to preventing foreign intervention in these relations.

[Farghali] Talking about Sudan makes us think of Iran—and we are now meeting at the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization's meetings. What are the nature and objectives of the Sudanese-Iranian alliance? Egypt has recently been the scene of terrorist and violent acts as a result of this alliance.

[Musa] Certain dimensions obviously come to mind as soon as one talks about this issue. I did not mention Sudan when I referred to foreign intervention. But you immediately thought of the Iranian intervention, or the Iranian-Sudanese alliance, as you said. We have frequently discussed this. It is not our business that Iran and Sudan should have good relations. But we are talking about policies and whether there is a certain scheme to create unrest in the Arab world, or the Islamic world in general. We are discussing whether certain policies are designed to create situations unacceptable to the region's states and peoples. Another question is whether it is normal to open the door to intervention in the Arab world and the Arab political community. There are many questions. But I do not want to turn these questions into accusations. The Islamic conference is supposed to get all sides to cooperate for their common good.

[Farghali] But assuming there is foreign interference—and certainly there is one source of it—is the situation in Egypt not ripe for responding to this interference, at least among certain sectors of the society? There must be some internal problems that need to be addressed.

[Musa] Islamic political thinking, of course, has many schools spread throughout the entire Islamic world. Some sectors of the Islamic public in various parts of the Islamic world may share certain ideas. This is reasonable, because Islamic thought must have its scope. However, when you go beyond the line of thought and argument and engage in terrorism and killing and terrifying a society, then this is a different story; it is not part of Islamic thought, but falls within the framework of crime and terrorism and needs to be confronted explicitly. This has happened in a number of Arab countries and continues to happen.

Disturbances in the Islamic world generally reflect negatively on the development process and project an incorrect image of Islam. This indeed has affected the reputation of Islam and the non- Muslims' attitudes toward Islam. On the other hand, dialogue between the fundamental and contemporary schools of thought and different ideas on how to apply Islam would enrich this thought and the mind; no one opposes this. What is important is that we should not descend to the levels reached by some Islamic societies in earlier stages of Islamic history—when Muslims fought and antagonized each other. We have seen that two Muslim countries fought each other for eight years. An Islamic country invaded another Muslim country immediately after that war ended. So, what will the shape of the Islamic world, in this case, be? Wars among Muslims, internal invasions, and the use of Islam in matters that have nothing to do with Islam. This can never be in the interest of Islam, and the plans and ideas that lead to it cannot possibly be attributed to Islam. What is happening is greatly annoying all sides: The sincere Muslims are annoyed with what is happening in their societies, and those outside the Islamic world are looking at the developments in the Islamic world with pity, to say the least.

[Farghali] What is the role of the ICO in tackling this issue? Does this issue really cause divisions inside the organization?

[Musa] What issue?

[Farghali] The issue of violence....

[Musa, interrupting] No. This is one of the issues and problems facing the Islamic world. The problem of Bosnia- Herzegovina is a product of this dilapidation and weakness in the Islamic world. We are unable to do anything about it. But those who are dealing with it are the Europeans and ethnic communities. We are not accepting this, because there is double standard there. There are many things that should have been done and policies that should have been applied beforehand to save the situation. What is happening now is that issues, such as extremism in the Islamic world because of the use of Islam in terrorist operations; the results of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; the results of the Iraq-Iran war; the results of the weakness of the Islamic communities, such as the Islamic community in Bosnia; and what happened in Somalia, which happens in many countries in which there are Islamic minorities—all this must be discussed by the Islamic states, and this is what we are doing here. We did not come here to deal with a specific issue and a specific situation, but to discuss different issues.

[Farghali] Mr. Minister, thank you very much. We hope to meet with you again at many Islamic and international forums. Thank you.

Bilateral, Multilateral Talks' Success Linked

NC2904211793 Cairo MENA in English 2011 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 29 (MENA)—Foreign Ministry spokesman Naji al-Ghatrifi has underlined that progress in the multilateral peace talks hinges on making headway in the Arab-Israeli bilaterals.

In statements to the VOA correspondent here, al-Ghatrifi said it would be difficult to envisage regional cooperation with respect to disarmament, environment and other issues without mutual recognition of rights and without true intentions to establish durable and just peace.

Once the required minimum is made available, I am sure that Egypt will play an active and effective role in the post-peace [word indistinct] he said.

Foreign Minister Calls Sudanese Accusations 'Baseless'

NC3004064593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2139 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Sudan's accusations that Egypt is involved in a so-called conspiracy and a scheme to invade Sudan and topple its ruling regime are not worthy of refutation because they are baseless.

Commenting on the accusations this evening, Musa said Egypt is known for not interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, irrespective of their positions and conduct.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry this evening summoned Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq and gave him a protest memorandum containing the allegations against Egypt.

Sudan Said 'Fabricating' Crisis With Cairo

NC2904153693 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 93 p 1

[Article by Jalal Duwaydar: "The al-Bashir-al-Turabi Regime and the Starving of the Sudanese People"]

[Text] The al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime in Sudan, which has undertaken the task of starving the Sudanese people, continues to live in delusions.

Rather than solve the problem of providing bread for and meeting the needs of the fraternal Sudanese people who are enduring harsh living conditions, this regime has opted for the easier route of leveling accusations against Egypt and other countries and holding them responsible for the consequences of its own actions. As is known, the al-Bashir regime rules under the cloak of Hasan al- Turabi, who has installed himself as a sponsor of terrorism in order to achieve his false political dreams of hegemony and control without regard for the interests, security, and stability of the Arab and Islamic peoples.

To justify the tragedies it has brought upon the Sudanese people, the al-Bashir regime has no qualms about resorting to distortions and false claims. The regime has accused Egypt, blamed it, and held it responsible for any popular action inside the country that is against the policy of starvation, repression, and ruin.

What al-Bashir and his friend al-Turabi do not know is that Egypt has for many years refrained from interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries. President Mubarak has underlined and continues to emphasize this principle and has even referred to Egypt's suffering from interference in its internal affairs by certain countries, especially Iran, which has given the Sudanese regime the right to be its agent in exporting terrorism to Egypt and many other countries.

No one has ever thought it possible or believed that a country such as Sudan, with its massive capabilities, resources, and agricultural lands, can reach a situation where its people cannot find a loaf of bread, the government does not have the funds to buy the fuel necessary for operating public and private transportation, and the [black market] dollar-Sudanese pound exchange rate is 400 times the official rate!!

While the Sudanese people are enduring all these problems suffering, there is the "al-Turabiyah" class who are living like emperors and whose corruption is spoken of in all capitals. The latest such achievement of the al-Turabi regime is the scandal of the director of the Agricultural Development Bank who squandered 1.4 billion Sudanese pounds. There is also the story of the Sudanese ambassador in Rome who has been charged in a bribery case involving an attempt to obtain false documents which would double the price of an "alum" deal which Sudan needs. The ambassador wanted to pocket the difference for his own personal use and for the use of the regime which he represents.

The reasons for the al-Bashir government's timing of accusing Egypt that supports what Khartoum claims to be a coup against it are now clear.

It appears that this government's failure to achieve any internal gains or objectives from raising the issue of Hala'ib has prompted it to fabricate a new crisis with Egypt, hoping that this will save it from a revolution by the Sudanese people.

AL-AKHBAR Questions U.S. Stand on Human Rights

NC3004074493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR criticizes the contradictory U.S. stand on the human rights issue. The paper alludes to Washington's intention to form an international committee to investigate crimes committed by certain elements in Iraq while it ignores the ongoing war of annihilation against the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In today's editorial, the paper says that the remarks by Secretary of State Warren Christopher on human rights are honorable and worthy except for the fact that there is a war going on in the heart of Europe, reports about which are being sent to the whole world, and no decisive measures are being taken by the international community to stop this tragedy.

The paper refers to a statement made five months ago by a ranking U.S. State Department official that said the United States has strong evidence that war crimes are being committed by the Serbian gangs against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

AL-AKHBAR also points to the statement made by former U.S. President Bush that the United States will call for the formation of an international court to try the Serbian war criminals. But this has not been established, the paper adds. It says this has encouraged the Serbian butchers to persist in their crimes and their defiance of the United Nations and its resolutions.

AL-AKHBAR asks: Can anyone in Washington now explain for us the mystery that every remark on war crimes and human rights violations in Bosnia has been replaced by U.S. statements on the trial of war criminals in Iraq?

Extremists To Be Tried in Military Courts

NC2904171493 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, April 29 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has asked military courts to try 10 Muslim extremists suspected of attacking a government minister, foreign tourists and policemen, officials said Thursday.

The suspects will be tried in four cases expected to start in May in the country's military courts, which decide more quickly and hand down harsher sentences than civilian courts.

The military prosecutor on Sunday is to issue one indictment for all of the suspects, who include veterans of the war in Afghanistan, the officials said.

The cases involve the attempted murder on April 20 of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, a March 27 bombing that killed a policeman, a March 16 bombing of a tourist bus at the Egyptian Museum, and an attack at the Pyramids.

The 10 are charged with forming an illegal organization and involvement in these attacks. [passage omitted]

Al-Alfi: 'Confessions' Reveal Terror Targets

NC3004085893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0713 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has said many dangerous terrorists will soon fall into police hands. He said security bodies have received information about the identity of the terrorists, their hideouts, and their disguise techniques.

In remarks in today's issue of AL-AHRAM, al-Alfi said the interrogation of detained terrorists has yielded detailed information about numerous terrorist leaders living in Afghanistan. The confessions detail names and their role in training the terrorists, planning attacks, and following up the operations. The confessions also refer to payments made to terrorists for recent operations.

Al-Alfi said security bodies found lists in the possession of the terrorists, naming officials, public figures, and performers whose assassination the Afghanistan-based terrorist leaders request. He added that the police are protecting those named on the lists.

Morocco

Number of Parliamentary Seats To Be Increased

LD2904132993 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 29 (MAP)—The number of seats at the House of Representatives (parliament) will be increased from 306 to 333.

The announcement was made by Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri during the Cabinet Council here Wednesday.

Basri who dealt with the various draft legislative and regulating texts elaborated in the prospect of the coming legislative elections said the number of MPs to be elected at direct suffrage will be brought up from 204 to 222 and that of MPs elected at indirect suffrage from 102 to 111. The text nullifies the provision concerning the election of MPs in constituencies reserved to the moroccan community settled abroad, Basri said.

The minister confirmed that the elections at the universal suffrage will be held on June 25 and that candidacies must be submitted from June 3 through 11. The electoral campaign, he said, starts on June 12 and winds up on June 24 at midnight.

Burkinabe President Arrives for Visit

LD2604220893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Blaise Campaore, president of the state of Burkina Faso, today arrived in Morocco on a friendship visit. [passage omitted]

The Burkinabe president expressed in a statement his satisfaction that his friendship visit would make it possible to strengthen bilateral cooperation ties. He also stressed that he would examine with King Hassan II a number of African issues and at the same time praised Morocco's assistance to Burkina Faso in the fields of technical and university education.

[Begin Campaore recording in progress, in French] ... Africa. We would of course also have an opportunity to hail Morocco's readiness to cooperate with our country in the fields of university and technical education. [end recording]

King Receives Campaore

LD2704165693 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this evening at the royal court in Rabat received Burkina Faso President Blaise Campaore who is on a private visit to our country. His majesty the king held private talks with his honorable guest.

Sudan

'Afghan Arabs' Rejected; Open-Door Policy Reviewed

PM2904133993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p 4

[Jamal Isma'il report: "Sudanese Foreign Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: We Are Reconsidering the Open-Door Policy"]

[Excerpt] Karachi—Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has stated that his country will not allow the transfer of "Afghan Arabs" arrested weeks ago by the Pakistani authorities in Peshawar to Sudan. He told AL-HAYAH in Karachi, where he is representing his country at the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers conference, that his country is already suffering because of the presence of some Arabs causing tension in its relations with other states.

He added that Pakistan should either absorb the "Afghan Arabs" or cooperate with their respective countries for their repatriation if it did not wish them to stay on its territory.

The Sudanese minister also said that "the Sudanese Government's open-door policy to all Arabs will be reconsidered, and before we decide to accept any of the Arabs in Pakistan we have to assure ourselves about him and his past lest he causes trouble in the future." [passage omitted]

Egypt's Involvement in 'Subversive Plan' Protested

JN2904161693 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry today summoned the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum to inform him of Sudan's protest over the Egyptian Government's involvement in the subversive plan which targeted Sudan's unity, security, and stability.

The Foreign Ministry handed the Egyptian ambassador a memorandum to this effect.

Vice President Hails Eritrean Referendum Results

EA2904121593 Asmera Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the Sudanese vice president, has said that the Eritrean referendum, which was conducted on three consecutive days, has concluded the Eritrean people's 30 years' struggle for self-determination. Noting that the Eritrean people have endured a bitter struggle and have paid heavy sacrifices to achieve their independence, the Sudanese vice president said that we have to be pleased with the victory achieved in Eritrea.

He added that the Sudanese people considered the Eritrean issue as their own issue and were cooperating with them as much as possible. He said there were ties between Eritrea and Sudan in all sectors, and affirmed that Sudan would play a role in Eritrean reconstruction as much as possible. He also expressed his hope that Eritrea would, in future, gain its position in every sector in the world. In conclusion, after congratulating the Eritrean people, he wished Eritrea development and prosperity.

Interior Minister Gives 'Details' of 'Plot' to TNA

EA2904203293 Khartoum SUNA in French 0920 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Apr (SUNA)—Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, the interior minister, has tabled before the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] details of the recent plot that was planned by the opposition in a bid to destroy the country's unity. The minister announced that the (?fallen) Communist Party was the prime author of the plot, adding the security organs had for a long time been watching the plotters' activities and that they would be capable of unveiling them at the opportune moment.

Brig. Husayn has meanwhile added that the opposition plot was aimed at jeopardizing the government's efforts in this sector without (?torpedoing) the cultural, political, and social (?achievements) as well as the security the country is (?enjoying). He added that the security authorities were currently making all the necessary preparations to carry out a just and open trial of the suspects, while asserting that the failure of the coup was a proof of the firmness of the internal front.

Several TNA members addressed the session and called for internal mobilization and an intensification of information to the outside world to deny the false allegations broadcast by the west accusing the Sudan of supporting terrorism.

Kuwait

Adviser Warns Against 'Haste in Bringing Down Saddam'

PM2804105693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Apr 93 p 5

[Nasir al-Mutayri report: "Kuwaiti Parliament's Political Adviser: The Defense Agreements Do Not Commit the United States To Defend Us; the Iraqi Opposition Is Vague and We Do Not Want To Cooperate With It"]

[Text] Kuwait—Deputy Mubarak al-Khuraynij, member of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, has emphasized that Kuwait would not have been liberated from the vile Iraqi aggression had King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, not opened up the territory of the Saudi Kingdom as a base for the coalition forces. He said that he and the Kuwaiti people are proud of the sincere fraternal stand of the Saudi Government and people in support of Kuwait and the Kuwaitis. He added that "there is a storm of love and gratitude in the hearts of all the Kuwaitis for their brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

That came at the seminar organized by Deputy al-Khuraynij. Dr. 'Abdallah Khalifah al-Shayji, political adviser at the National Assembly, delivered a lecture on "Kuwait's security and foreign strategy."

Dr. al-Shayji talked about the foundations of internal and security policy and the strategic dimensions of Kuwait's foreign and military policy. He said that guaranteeing internal security depends, by necessity, on [the resolution of] three issues: Foreign labor, the demographic structure, and the issue of nationality and the category of "al-Bidun" [people who have lived in Kuwait for a long time but remain stateless].

Discussing the issue of foreign labor, al-Shayji said that the Kuwaiti inclination to make Kuwaitis the majority in their country has not succeeded so far because there are still more foreigners than Kuwaitis—800,000 foreigners and 600,000 Kuwaitis.

He attributed that to the accumulation of marginal labor in Kuwait, which greatly affects internal security because the workers are of various nationalities, sects, and races. The foreigners in Kuwait, he said, represent 120 states, a matter with serious implications for internal security.

Dr. al-Shayji appealed to the Kuwaiti National Assembly to urgently find an adequate solution to the al-Bidun category of people with no specific nationality. He said that they should be legally absorbed in Kuwaiti society in any capacity by giving them residency or using their expertise. He said that continuation of their present situation without any decisive solution is a "time bomb."

Dr. 'Abdallah al-Shayji, the political adviser at the Kuwaiti National Assembly, said that many people in that category played an undeniable part during the Iraqi occupation. Some of them were killed in defense of Kuwait, he said, and some are still POW's held by the Iraqi regime. He added that solving this problem would bolster Kuwait's internal security and enhance its image abroad.

Dr. al-Shayji criticized the discrimination between first-class and second-class citizens, or Kuwaitis by origin and Kuwaitis by naturalization. He said the government should take into account the need to mold Kuwaiti society into a single unified citizenship leaving no room for such discrimination, which he described as a "bug eating into the Kuwaiti body." Dr. al-Shayji said that rectifying all these issues of foreign labor, demographic structure, and citizenship and the al-Bidun category would secure Kuwait's internal front and would translate into external stability because there can be no external security without internal security achieved through radical solutions to all the issues threatening the inner unity of Kuwaiti society.

Dr. al-Shayji then spoke about foreign, security, and military strategy. He said: Militarily, Kuwait is weak and has no strategy. He added that, before the 1990 Iraqi invasion, the Kuwaiti Army consisted of about 18,000 men.

At present the Defense Ministry's manpower does not exceed 1,200 soldiers, many of whom are non-Kuwaitis. That is in addition to the fact that, with the exception of the two brigades which participated in the liberation war, they have no combat experience.

Al-Shayji pointed out that Kuwait is surrounded by big neighbors as far as area, population, and military power are concerned. The first, he said, is Iraq, whose troops outnumber the entire population of Kuwait and which still has a considerable arsenal, for it still has Scud missiles, and the Iraqi press and school books still emphasize that Kuwait is a usurped part of Iraq, which "threatens a grim and dangerous future."

As regards the other neighbor, Iran, which is considered to be a giant state in the Gulf region and is a strategic power stretching all along the eastern coast of the Arab Gulf, al-Shayji said that Iran is trying hard to rearm itself and is trying to fight the Gulf states in the media and to flex its muscles in the eyes of the region's states.

He said that Iran has aggressive intentions, the best proof being the recent Iranian Majles decision about Iran exercising its legitimate rights to the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu-Musa, a move that will trigger a crisis between the Gulf states and Iran which he described as a "strike force."

He said that Iran recently concluded a deal for advanced missiles with a range of 1000 km and, what is more serious, with the capacity to carry chemical warheads.

Dr. 'Abdallah al-Shayji expressed deep concern about Iran's policy, which he described as vague, with nobody knowing what Iran wants from the Gulf.

Al-Shayji revealed that Iran opposes the agreements and security arrangements Kuwait concludes with the coalition states, and it is also against the Damascus Declaration.

Kuwait, he said, is between two fires, Iraq and Iran, and therefore must depend on the Gulf and Arab dimensions for its protection.

Dr. al-Shayji stressed that, in Kuwait's defense agreements with the United States and Britain, there is no stipulation committing these states in so many words to defend Kuwait, and no stipulation committing them to keeping a single U.S. soldier on Kuwaiti territory. They are no more than "security arrangements."

Dr. al-Shayji said Kuwait should have its own intrinsic military strategy in addition to reliance on Gulf and Arab defense coordination.

On the future of Kuwait's relations with the hostile states which supported the Iraqi regime when it occupied Kuwait, he said that Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, and other states that supported Iraq's aggressive ambitions have so far not apologized for the stance they took and have not admitted their mistake, in fact the Jordanian press still attacks Kuwait.

He said: "We do not want to turn the other cheek for them to slap." He emphasized that "the people of Kuwait are opposed to the restoration of ties with these hostile states."

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the position of the Iraqi opposition and its links with Kuwait, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Shayji said there is no real Iraqi opposition. It, he said, consists of 40 factions which are "the other face of Saddam Husayn. That is why we do not want to cooperate with them."

He pointed out that so far there has been no unified statement by the Iraqi opposition condemning or denouncing the Iraqi aggression. The Iraqi opposition, he said, is not clear and its only common objective is to overthrow Saddam, but we do not know what would become of Iraq and the states of the region after that.

Al-Shayji said that there should be no haste in bringing down Saddam in the absence of a guaranteed alternative that would spare blood. He predicted that if Saddam Husayn fell now, that would be followed by ethnic cleansing battles among the Kurds, the Shiites, the Sunnis, and other groups.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Ministry Denies Plans for Exercises With Egypt

PM2904142493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p6

['Abdallah Nasir al-Shahri report: "Riyadh: No Egyptian-Saudi Agreement on Joint Exercises"]

[Text] Riyadh— Military sources at the Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation have denied to AL-HAYAH that Saudi Arabia and Egypt had agreed to hold military exercises every six months. They also denied any Saudi intention to purchase U.S.-designed Abrams-M1 tanks from Egypt. Washington is known to have given Cairo permission last year to sell these tanks, which are manufactured in Egypt. The Saudi sources added that everything said about this matter "is completely unfounded."

Egyptian defense sources claimed last Saturday that, during the Egyptian defense minister's visit to Riyadh last week, the two sides agreed to hold military exercises every six months and that Saudi Arabia intended to purchase U.S. Abrams-M1 tanks from Egypt.

Lebanon's al-Hariri Hails Saudi Support

LD2904193993 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, April 29, SPA—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has applauded the important and distinguished role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to boost security and stability in Lebanon. In a statement to the press published on Thursday al-Hariri said the Lebanese people have feelings of love and appreciation for the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Saudi Government and people for their support to their homeland. The meetings here on Wednesday. [as received]

He added that the Saudi efforts in Lebanon are not new to the Kingdom who is always working to realize the interests and solidarity of the Arab nation. He also pointed out that the support extended by the Kingdom to Lebanon throughout its crisis was an essential element in the stability of the country. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Egypt's 'Amr Musa Departs, Comments on Talks

JN2904162093 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 29 (GNA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left here today after a two day visit to the UAE during which he delivered a letter from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Emirates News Agency (WAM) quoted 'Amr Musa as saying upon departure that he was carrying a letter from President Shaykh Zayid to Egyptian President Mubarak.

He said his talks with President Shaykh Zayid, which focused on the present situations in the Arab world and the Gulf region, bilateral relations and the outcome of the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries in Karachi recently, were fruitfull.

"Ways of restoring Arab solidarity and ironing out differences prevailing in the inter-Arab relations were part of my talks with President Shaykh Zayid," Musa said.

He added that Shaykh Zayid's perspective over Arab solidarity and reconciliation was clear and straightforward.

About how to move the obstacles hindering the attainment of Arab solidarity at present, Musa said consultations among Arab countries would be the ideal way to overcome such obstacles.

Responding to a question on the stalemate of the Middle East peace talks, Musa said guarantees were offered by the United States as it was a cosponsor of the peace process. He added that the guarantees were basicly the application of the United Nations Resolution 242 and restoration of the Palestinian's political rights on the basis of land for peace as well as the U.S. to be a full partner in the peace process.

Commenting on Syrian announcement that it would resort to the sponsors of the peace process, Musa said that Syrian declaration to resort to the sponsors comes as part of a process to draw the attention to the U.S. pledge that it woiuld be a full partner in the talks.

He described the Israeli decision to return 30 deportees as a positive start.

Yemen

President Salih Interviewed on Parliamentary Elections

JN2804124193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Having cast his vote at the Constituency No. 11 polling station in Sanaa, Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih inspected the balloting process under way at the station to ensure that proper rules are being enforced.

Afterward, the brother Presidential Council chairman, along with Sanaa Mayor brother Husayn al-Mihwari, toured several election centers. He was reassured that the election process was proceeding properly. He urged committee members to provide voters all possible facilities to enable them to exercise their voting rights in a free and honest atmosphere.

The brother president spoke to local, Arab, and world reporters at the polling station where he cast his vote. When asked about how he felt while he was standing in line, along with other citizens, to cast his vote, Presidential Council Chairman brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: I feel extremely happy when I exercise my political rights, just as any other Yemeni citizen.

When asked in whom he will place his trust, the brother president said: I will not talk about the people in whom I am putting my trust so as not to affect other voters. I do not want to influence the voters' decisions in this regard.

In reply to a question on whether he is satisfied with the way the election process is proceeding and the climate in which it is held, the brother president said: This is what we have advocated for a long time. We deem what is happening today a celebration of democracy, particularly since we observe citizens exercising their political rights and choosing, of their own volition, their representatives to the Council of Representatives. This is what our people have struggled to achieve, many long years before and after the inception of the revolution.

When queried whether he is satisfied with all that is happening today, he said: I am extremely relieved over what is happening today. I am also satisfied with the calm prevailing at polling stations in all constituencies. Prior to my arrival here, I followed the election process in the Yemeni governorates. I have learned that the voting process is proceeding well, and that a quiet and secure atmosphere is prevailing in all constituencies and that people can be seen walking calmly and confidently to the polling stations.

On the number of seats expected to be won by the General People's Congress [GPC] and whether the election results will be accepted, the brother president said: We wish the GPC every success. Similarly, we wish other parties every success. We wish to see the opposition win. This would be fine with us. We will accept the results of the elections and get used to democracy. Furthermore, we wish to see women at the forefront of winners. We will accept the election results in a sportsmanlike manner. This sportsmanship must be demonstrated by each and every political party, and also by each and every candidate. Both success and failure must be accepted. Yesterday, they spoke of the existence of some 2,070 candidates, who are vying for 301 constituencies. It goes without saying that only 301 candidates will win the elections. These will be the lucky ones.

On what he hopes for the GPC candidate at this constituency, he said: We wish him every success.

Responding to a question regarding speculation on the composition of the next Council of Representatives, the brother president said: It goes without saying that many political forces will emerge winners in the elections. The GPC, the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Yemeni Reform Alliance, the Ba'th Party, as well as independents will be among the winners.

Regarding his impressions of the arrangements made for the voting process, the brother president said: I am happy with the measures taken and enforced by the Higher Election Committee as well as principal and supervisory committees in the governorates. Likewise, I am satisfied with the security measures and preparations made. I am also satisfied with the citizens' conduct, their calmness, and their standing in line to exercise their political and democratic rights. This is a source of pride, as we are observing our people demonstrate this great and civilized conduct. This is not strange for our Yemeni people, for they have been a civilized people since ancient times. We are very pleased over what is happening today. I am extremely happy with the quietness prevailing at all polling stations in all Yemeni governorates. The quietness which we have been hoping for has come true today.

Regarding rumored violations of the electoral law by the two ruling parties, the brother president said: I expect that some parties that lose in the elections will attempt to contest the election results, alleging that some violations took place. However, to the best of my knowledge, there have thus far been no violations of the electoral law. This is because citizens have attained a high degree of political awareness. They are capable of choosing their representatives to the Council of Representatives. The electoral law clearly defines individual and group violations of the electoral law. Also, there are independent courts and an independent judiciary, which are capable of taking to task all those who violate laws.

On the presence of security and military units at polling stations, he said: Military and security units are registered at all polling stations and constituencies according to the law and in accordance with the measures endorsed by the Higher Elections Committee. Military men belong to the people. As a matter of fact, the military man is deemed a citizen first, and then a military man.

Responding to a question on whether these units were moved there to influence voters or to strengthen the standing of a candidate, the brother president said: No military unit can move from one place to another. Military men cannot be registered at any constituency or polling station unless such a constituency or polling station is located in their place of residence or work site.

On his expectations for the GPC's chances of success in the elections, and on whether the election results will be accepted in case an opposition party wins the majority of seats, his brother the president said: We wish the GPC every success. If it turns out to be unlucky, the GPC, out of its belief in democracy, will be willing to hand over authority.

'New Balance' in Parliament Discussed

JN2904200293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1743 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Ahmad Birru in Sanaa; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Birru] Yemen has successfully passed the test of the pluralistic democratic elections, which were held in a quiet atmosphere, without any notable security disturbances. The available results seem to indicate that the majority of Yemenis have voted for the General People's Congress. What is your comment on the atmosphere in which the elections were held and on the available results?

[Salih] What we are interested in is successful elections irrespective of which party wins the majority or more seats. All that the leadership was interested in has been the soundness and success of this experience. As far as I know, all parties have obtained good quotas in parliament. We hope that every political organization will have a good quota in parliament. This is because we would like to have all political forces in the new parliament, especially the effective political forces, which have a weight and a political status, and which have stuggled in Yemen and achieved great things for the Yemeni people, such as the realization of the Yemeni unity on 22 May. Those have struggled until Yemen's great democratic happy day was achieved on 27 April.

[Birru] The results of the elections will create a new balance at the Council of Representatives. How will this balance be reflected on the formation of the new government and on the bilateral coalition which was set up during the transitional period between the GPC and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], especially if the al-Islah coalition leads the YSP in the elections?

[Salih] First, as for the Council of Representatives or the new government, we perceive that, irrespective of who wins the majority, the government will be a national accord government rather than a majority government. This is because the country needs that. I believe the new government will bear major responsibilities and new tasks, especially with regard to eliminating the residue of the partition and to exercising the [word indistinct] of the transitional period. [passage omitted]

[Birru] The issue of merging the two parties [GPC and YSP] was raised during the election campaign. Will this be followed up on after the announcement of the results of the elections?

[Salih] Of course. A merger or unity between the YSP and the GPC was and continues to be raised. This will be started with the formation of a parliamentary bloc between the two parties within the framework of a future unity. [passage omitted]

[Birru] Regarding relations with Iraq and Libya in light of the international sanctions imposed on the two countries, will there be any change in Yemen's position?

[Salih] We say that there is no justification for the continued economic blockade imposed on Iraq, especially since it has complied with all UN resolutions. Nor is there any justification for the continued economic blockade and air embargo imposed on fraternal Libya, especially since with such issues the parties involved can resort to the law and to international courts. There is no need for such resolutions imposed on our Arab homeland, on Libya and Iraq. We consider this to be a manifestation of the intransigence being exercised against the Arab homeland. Most regrettably, this is taking place in light of the absence of Arab solidarity. Had there been Arab solidarity, such arbitrary resolutions would not have continued. [passage omitted]

[Birru] We return to the relations with neighboring Arab countries, especially with regard to border problems. The border problem between Yemen and Oman has been settled. Meanwhile, the border problem with Saudi Arabia has been frozen, or suspended. Is this due to Yemen's preoccupation with the elections, or are there other reasons?

[Salih] We reiterate that since 22 May [reference to 22 May 1990 when North and South Yemen were reunited, forming the Republic of Yemen] we have been saying that Yemen is now, more than ever before, capable of solving border problems with its neighbors. This is because when Yemen was divided we could not solve any problem, neither in the south nor in the north. Now, Yemen can solve the problem. The best proof of the Yemeni Government's consistency and the credibility of its declarations is that we have resolved the problem with the brothers in Oman. As soon as good intentions were made available and our country was united, the problem was resolved. A dialogue is currently being held between us and the brothers in Saudi Arabia. Technical committees have been set up [words indistinct]. Our decisions are taken through institutions, not persons. Ours is a state of institutions. [words indistinct] No single individual can make a decision, nor can he take a ruler and a pencil and draw the borderline. (?It is only through) technical committees and in light of the documents provided by all parties that this problem can be solved. [passage omitted]

President 'Proud' of Results

NC3004075193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Apr 93

["First part" of a telephone interview with President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Sanaa, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President, welcome to our program.

[Salih] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Could you tell us about the preliminary results of the elections and their effect on national unity in the country?

[Salih] We are proud of the Yemeni parliamentary elections. The polling lasted from 0800 to 2000 on Tuesday [27 April]. Over 80 percent of eligible voters showed up at the polling stations. Votes are still being counted in 301 polling stations under the supervision of party representatives and international observers and journalists. About 70 to 80 percent of the results are known and the Higher Elections Committee has released statements naming the winning candidates.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President, what parties are ahead, according to preliminary results?

[Salih] We believe that the Yemeni people are ahead, regardless of their party affiliations. We are proud that the Yemeni people have succeeded in holding these elections, regardless of their political leanings. According to preliminary results, the General People's Congress is leading, followed by the Yemeni Socialist Party, the People's Reform, the Arab Ba'th Party, and others.

[Abu-al-Majd] As the president and a man with a responsibility toward the entire Yemeni people, how do you assess this experience?

[Salih] We are proud of this experience. The elections are the right first step for reviving political life and pluralism. I am grateful to be the president of the Yemeni people, not just a leader of a specific party. I am proud that we behaved in a positive and civilized manner and that the political parties and organizations as well as the public cooperated to make the elections a success. These are the first elections following unity. It was a good start. The public was eager to see it succeed. The signs are all good.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President: If the election experiment was a success, many challenges still lie ahead, as well as fulfilling the aspirations that the fraternal Yemeni people expect of you after the experiment. What future plans do you have that will effectively contribute toward achieving development of the brotherly Yemeni people's welfare?

[Salih] Among the first priorities for the new government, God willing, will be to eliminate the residue of the past era and the legacy of colonialism and the imams' rule [pre-revolution era] and to put an end to the negative things that accompanied the transitional period. Then we will work on true and comprehensive development for the homeland in all areas—such as agricultural development, the modernization of the remaining infrastructure, economic development, the consolidation of security and stability, the completion of the various state institutions, organizations, and authorities that remain to be established, and the modernization of the laws, particularly the pre-unity laws. These are among the future plans, God willing.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you planning to form a new government following this experiment?

[Salih] Yes. Some constitutional reforms will be introduced and a new government will be formed after the new House of Representatives begins its session. The tasks I mentioned will be taken up by the new government.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are the most important constitutional reforms you intend to introduce next?

[Salih] Ending the duplication between the various state authorities and constitutional institutions, such as the presidency, the government, and the parliament.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are there any other steps that you intend to take on this?

[Salih] To undertake whatever reconcilatory measures that promote the Constitution on which the unified state was based and to do what is best for the country. Through our suffering and activities following the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, we noticed some gaps that need to be bridged constitutionally.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some forces say that the elections were rigged, how do you answer these charges?

[Salih] My answer is that you can ask the international observers and the international press. This is the first [free] election that I can confidently say was held in our homeland and, perhaps, in the entire Third World. First of all, neither the current government nor any of the state institutions had anything to do with the election process. A committee made up of the political parties and organizations was set up to supervise the elections, and funds from the treasury were made available for this committee to conduct its mission. Some security and defense units were placed at the disposal of the higher committee supervising the elections. The state institutions had nothing to do with the election proceedings. They were free and direct elections. It is natural for a party that has lost the elections to try to use the press and media to claim that the elections were rigged. However, I confirm, and the international observers and international press also confirmed, that the elections were free.

Election Violence Reported; GPC Accused of 'Vote-Rigging'

NC2904124393 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Sanaa, April 29 (AFP)—Four people were killed and five others wounded following Yemen's first general elections as various parties accused the ruling faction of vote-rigging while ballots were still being counted on Thursday.

In Aden, authorities stepped in Wednesday night to break up a protest by losing candidates who were trying to demonstrate at the electoral commission's headquarters against what they said were irregularities. A member of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) was shot and wounded by an unidentified assailant. Witnesses said security forces fired in the air to disperse the crowd.

Shaykh Muhammad Naqi al-Sha'if, who is the son of an influential tribal leader and was elected to parliament on Tuesday, was ambushed near Barat al-Jawf, 150 kilometers (93 miles) northeast of Sanaa.

Unknown gunmen targeted his car convoy late Wednesday and his men returned fire but four of them were killed in the exchange and four others were wounded.

Al-Sha'if, who had defeated a YSP candidate, accused that party of ordering the attack.

Inconclusive results from 179 of the 301 electoral districts put the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih ahead of its rivals with 94 seats.

The YSP, with which it has shared power since May 1990, got 33 seats in the 301-seat chamber while the Islamic movement Al-Islah [Reform] secured 26.

Al-Islah has made charges of ballot rigging and armed threats against voters.

Independents, making up about 75 percent of the 3,600 candidates, had only 19 seats.

Yemeni officials, saying they had obtained the results from the electoral commission, announced them in a Sanaa hotel hall but the figures are being contested by the YSP and Al-Islah.

The YSP has accused the commission of disseminating false information.

Al-Islah issued a release here Thursday strongly criticizing the two ruling parties for tampering with results and slammed the "deliberately" slow vote count, which it said was "irresponsible" and aimed at manipulating the final results.

"Such machinations prove that the GPC and YSP are unwilling to pull Yemen out of the chaos and tension and it's now clear the two parties plan to remain in power at any cost," the release said, adding that it was holding them responsible for the consequences on Yemen and its people.

The socialists on Thursday insisted to AFP that they had secured 89 seats, 50 in their stronghold of Aden, notably in the southern urban centers of Ta'izz and Ibb as well as in the western town of al-Hudaydah.

Voters chose from among a total of 3,627 candidates, including 50 women.

Yemen, which was united in 1990, is only the second country on the Arabian peninsula, after Kuwait, to hold parliamentary elections.

GPC Aide Cited on Election 'Surprises'

PM2904114593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Khayrallah Khayrallah report: "Yemen: People's Congress Expects Big Surprises"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa—The ballot boxes were closed yesterday evening in all parts of Yemen after a long day unprecedented since reunification on 22 May 1990. Despite some isolated incidents and the suspension of voting in one constituency—constituency number 192 in al-Hudaydah Governorate where the General People's Congress [GPC] candidate was killed a few days ago—the election atmosphere was relatively calm, indicating that the supervisory committee was very successful. [passage omitted]

Yahya al-Mutawakkil, a senior GPC official and the head of the GPC's Political Department, expects the elections to produce some big surprises. Al-Mutawakkil, who is believed to be close to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, told AL-HAYAH: "I expect major surprises in two ways. The first is at the level of the candidates. Some candidates think that their parties will win but they will lose. Secondly, at the national level, the balance we had expected in the new assembly among the three main parties may not materialize. Some parties will achieve unexpected results and other parties might lose more than they expected."

He spoke of the discovery of "some weaknesses" in the GPC, which is led by 'Ali Salih. He said that "the GPC sees the elections as the first experience under the plurality system. To us it has been a very difficult test which enabled us to discover the GPC's organizational weaknesses as well as the strength of the loyalty of its popular base." [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Said in Jordan After Assassination Attempt

NC2904150593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Regime sources have said that Wathban Ibrahim al- Hasan, Saddam's maternal half-brother and minister of interior, is currently in Jordan being treated for edema. Reporting this, our sources in Iraq affirmed that Wathban was severely wounded during a recent assassination attempt in Baghdad, after which he was hospitalized. [passage omitted]

Our sources confirmed that special security agencies arrested the director of the 'Ali al-Sharqi Subdistrict and its party leader and said it is likely they will be connected with the attempt to assassinate Wathban.

'Taj al-Ma'arik' Water Canal Project Completed

JN2904152893 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 29, INA—A 36.5 km-long water canal project was completed in a record time of 75 days, it was reported here today.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn, Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, the president's advisor, said "Taj al-Ma'arik" [Crown of Battles] river located near the southern Governorate of Maysan involved a 9 km-long irrigational canal with a width of 127 meters and a depth of three meters.

The project also involved excavation of four million cu. meter in addition to setting up of three bridges.

The canal has a capacity of 400 cu. meter/second to activate 300 thousand donums of arable land.

'Important' Parts of Communication Satellite Dish Repaired

JN2804140893 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Apr 93 p 1

[By Hanan Janab]

[Text] Military industrialization workers have succeeded in manufacturing major and important parts of the space communication satellite dish. This was reported to AL-JUMHURIYAH by Dr. Engineer Riwa'-al-Din Khayri Sa'id, director general of the Space Research Center. He said that technical and engineering cadres were able to manufacture the primary parts of the communications antenna at al-Dujayl ground station. The cadres accomplished their mission by using alternative local materials and installing the manufactured parts in a less complicated and manual way, thus providing a necessary extension for the repaired major part.

Eng. Riwa'-al-Din Khayri Sa'id said that manufacturing and installing satellite dishes can only be done by a specialized international company. However, despite the circumstances of the siege, workers were able to repair these dishes, which suffered 80-percent damage from the 30-state aggression on Iraq. This damage led to the disruption of satellite communications because of the damaged parts. Eng. Riwa'-al-Din said that the satellite dish consists of 168 parts or reflectors covering a total area of 1,200 square meters and the diameter of the dish is 32 and ½ meters. This makes al-Dujayl station one of the main stations in Iraq that contributes to the process of transmitting and receiving thousands of telephone calls and news dispatches everyday.

He noted that the process of installing the manufactured parts on the steel frame will soon begin, after which it will be possible for communicating with the Indian satellite and opening new channels with neighboring states, including India, China, Japan, and all the countries of southeast Asia. The satellite will be tested by international stations to assess its efficiency.

Allenby Bridge Area Closed; 'Thousands' Await Deportees

TA3004082193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Thousands of Palestinians from Judaea and Samaria have come to Jericho to greet the returning deportees today. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has declared the Allenby Bridge area a closed military zone. Most of the Palestinians are waiting for the deportees at the entrance to Jericho. The town was decorated with signs welcoming the returning deportees, and IDF and police forces are maintaining public order.

First Group of Deportees Crosses

TA3004110993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The first group of deportees has crossed the Allenby Bridge. Thousands of Palestinians from Judaea and Samaria turned out to greet them. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police are maintaining order.

Damascus Reports Rabin Statement on Golan Withdrawal

JN2904075293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] In occupied Palestine, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has dismissed negotiations over the occupied Golan Heights before knowing, what he called, the nature of the peace Syria is talking about.

In an interview with London Radio aired last night, Rabin said that Israel's offer to the Palestinians to give them responsibilities concerning the civilian administration of the occupied territories marks a major change in the existing situation. Rabin said this offer can be viewed as a transitional arrangement for a period less than five years, stressing that the permanent status will be negotiated on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Rabin said his government's policy is based on excluding the majority of Palestinians from the permanent solution, as well as not accepting a complete withdrawal. He said Jerusalem must remain a united capital under, what he called, Israeli sovereignty, and amendments must be made to the 1967 border lines, particularly in the eastern part, to accommodate what he alleges are Israel's security interests.

Settlers Threaten Armed Resistance to Golan Withdrawal

TA3004090593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by Yosi Werther]

[Text] Hundreds of the 12,000 settlers on the Golan Heights are arming themselves in preparation for the evacuation of the plateau.

They are threatening to hole up in bunkers and buildings, armed with explosives, and to set off mine fields, and they do not rule out the possibility of mass suicides or opening fire at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Many of them don skullcaps, but there are also nonreligious settlers among the organizers.

Ze'ev Greenfeld, 41, a resident of Neve Ativ and one of the operators of the Mount Hermon ski site, is one of the organizers. Two weeks ago, he climbed up to the IDF position on the peak of Mt. Hermon accompanied by two friends. The three were there for two days, during which they reconstructed 14 Syrian battle positions. Greenfeld, who participated in the battle for the Hermon during the 1973 war, vowed that he will never leave the Golan Heights. "Up to now, I was incapable of coming up to the positions here; it was a very sensitive matter for me. In the past few weeks, however, I came to understand that there is no other choice, that the time has come," he said. "During the Yom Kippur war, the Syrians holed themselves up in these positions. I very much hope that we will not have to do so as well, when the time comes."

In 1975, during the negotiations on the disengagement agreement, three young men from the Golan Heights handcuffed themselves to the fence of then Foreign Minister Yig'al Alon's home. Greenfeld was one of them. The protest action then, he promises, will look like child's play compared to what is being planned on the Golan Heights now.

Eli Sagron, 43, also of Neve Ativ, believes that some 15 members from the settlement will physically oppose any evacuation.

There is a nucleus like that in each of the Golan settlements, he said. When asked whether they would use live ammunition to prevent a withdrawal, he replied: "Definitely, only live ammunition. People will hole up and shoot. I know of many things that now look extreme and sound very unreasonable, but everybody, up to the last man, will take up positions. It will end in bloodshed."

Roni Lotan, 46, of Kibbutz Mevo Hama in the southern sector of the Golan, also believes that the Golan settlers will use live ammunition. "It will be much worse than Yamit [the settlement evacuated during the withdrawal from Sinai in 1982]. There will be a real civil war here," Lotan said.

Graffiti attacking Rabin can be seen along the roads on the Golan. One says: "Begin is waiting for Rabin." The graffiti is accompanied by a drawing of an open grave.

Rabin Meets Fatah Leader in Gaza 'Favorable Atmosphere'

TA2904194093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, today toured the Gaza Strip where he was acquainted with local reconstruction and development plans. In the course of the tour, Rabin convened with As'ad al-Saftawi, one of the Fatah leaders in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent reports that al-Saftawi is seen as one of Yasir 'Arafat's confidants. [passage omitted]

[A related report on Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 29 April says that "the prime minister gave al-Saftawi an almost detailed account of problems hampering the peace process with the Palestinians." The report adds that owing to the return of 30 old time deportees, "there was a favorable atmosphere at the meeting."]

Curfews Imposed as IDF Searches for Wanted Men in Gaza

TA3004090893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The security forces captured three wanted men early this morning during a manhunt in the Khan Yunus area and the village of Bayt Hanun in the Gaza Strip. The fugitives were captured in Bayt Hanun, and a curfew was imposed on the village and on Khan Yunus. Another three armed fugitives turned themselves over to the Army.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] source reported that the soldiers have been carrying out house-to-house searches in Bayt Hanun since early this morning in an attempt to locate more fugitives and their accomplices. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that since the beginning of the closure, approximately 40 wanted men have been captured or killed. Approximately 20 men have escaped to Egypt through Rafah.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 30 April in a page 4 report by David Regev adds that "in the past two days, five wanted men from the Gaza Strip, including the commander of the Rafah Red Eagle squad and members of the Fatah Hawks squad, have fled to Egypt as a result of the heavy pressure on them by the security forces. This was reported by Arab sources.

["The men have been wanted by the authorities for about a year. The five were involved in the murder of local residents and in attempts to attack IDF soldiers. Yesterday, graffiti was sprayed, congratulating the five on their escape. So far, 27 fugitives have escaped since the imposition of the closure on the Gaza Strip: 25 to Egypt and two to Jordan."]

Sinyurah, Kollek on Reopening East Jerusalem Municipality

TA2904115093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Text] "The Palestinian residents of Jerusalem may reactivate the East Jerusalem municipality in several weeks," Hannah Sinyurah, editor in chief of the East Jerusalem daily AL-FAJR, said yesterday.

Sinyurah estimated that Israel will vehemently oppose this initiative. "They will not like it," he said.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek indeed opposes this: "Obviously this is impossible to accept," he said, "and it will not be accepted. United Jerusalem is Israel's capital. There will be no concessions on this matter."

Gaza Youth Dies of Injuries; Homes of 'Terrorists' Sealed

TA2904114693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Ramzi Mansur, a 17-year-old resident of al-Burayj refugee camp, died this morning at Tel Hashomer Hospital. He was critically injured yesterday by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire when youths hurled stones at IDF observation posts in the camp. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 29 April reports that "the security forces early this morning sealed off the homes of two terrorists in al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah. Security sources say Walid al-Fu'ad 'Awda confessed to trying to kidnap a soldier near Bet El in November of 1990."]

Higher Than Acceptable Radiation Levels Detected in Negev

TA2504130993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 93 pp A1, A6

[Report by environmental affairs correspondent Eli El'ad]

[Excerpt] Levels of radioactivity seven times higher than those acceptable in Israel were measured at various points along the slopes of Hamakhtesh Haqatan. These levels, which exceed the findings of the checks conducted last week by the Environment Ministry in an area outside the fence surrounding the Negev Nuclear Research Center in Dimona, were registered at various points along the course of the sewage drainage from the oxidation pools.

Nevertheless, these extraordinary levels do not pose a security or health hazard, and they are still lower than the lowest threshold of radioactivity considered hazardous.

The levels of radioactivity found in the samples collected last week are higher than those found in the samples collected in August 1992 in the same area. The difference stems from the fact that the samples were not taken from the exact same points. The checks were conducted as part of an agreement reached between Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, heads of the Atomic Energy Commission, and the directors of the Atomic Research Center. [passage omitted]

Left-Wing Groups Establish Non-Partisan 'Peace Bloc'

TA2804143293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Several groups and public figures from the Israeli left-wing today announced the establishment of a new, non-partisan body to be known as Gush Shalom [Peace Bloc]. The new bloc will incorporate Women in Black, Yesh Gvul, and left-wing student and academic organizations.

Speaking at a press conference today, journalist Uri Avneri said that the peace camp had grown silent ever since the Rabin government assumed power, noting that the new bloc sought to emphasize the fact that Rabin's government was a target for criticism from the left as well as from the right.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that all the speakers asserted that the offers made by the Rabin government to the Palestinians in Washington were identical to those made by the previous government led by Yitzhaq Shamir.

Former Arrow Project Director Given 2-Year Prison Sentence

TA2904100193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Dov Raviv, the former director of the Israel Aircraft Industries Arrow project, was sentenced by the Tel Aviv District Court to two years in prison and a two-year suspended sentence and was given a fine of 50,000 shekels. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that Raviv was convicted of bribery.

All Planes Return Safely Following Raid in Lebanon

TA3004071593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Israel Air Force jets attacked terrorist targets in 'Ayn al-Hulwah in Lebanon this morning. The targets belonged to Ahmad Jibril's organization. All our planes returned safely to base. [passage omitted]

N. Korea Offers Unofficial Ties; 'Skepticism' in Jerusalem

TA2904192993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Excerpt] North Korean Government elements have for the first time approached Israel with a proposal to launch unofficial ties. The ties are supposed to be of predominantly an economic nature.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that information on this issue has been recently communicated to the political echelons in Jerusalem by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur, who forged unprecedented unofficial ties during his clandestine visit to North Korea about six months ago.

Israel has examined and handled the matter with secrecy, but also with skepticism. Because of its sensitive nature, the information was passed on to the United States. [passage omitted]

Germany's Ruehe Discusses Security With Rabin, Others

AU2904175993 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1130 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Rolf Clemens report]

[Text] Defense Minister Volker Ruehe's three-day visit to Israel will end this evening. Yesterday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin described Ruehe's visit as a milestone in bilateral relations.

When Ruehe was officially welcomed at a traditional restaurant in Tel Aviv yesterday evening, the guests, all Israelis and no tourists, chanted loudly: Welcome, welcome. People repeatedly walked up to his table and asked who the minister was and welcomed him again. When the German delegation joined in the singing of the Israelis who celebrated there, the ice was finally broken. The German defense minister was received in a friendly and warm way everywhere. A group of pupils approached him in a friendly way on Masada Mountain, and some of them even slapped him irreverently on the back.

Ruehe was also given a royal reception at a dinner in his honor given by the German ambassador yesterday. Rabin, President-elect Weizman, and numerous ambassadors from foreign countries, including the Egyptian envoy, who held a private talk with Rabin there, attended.

During political meetings, the Israeli leadership made it clear that the security situation in the region has eased, and that it hopes to create more stable conditions as a result of the peace talks in Washington. This morning, when Ruehe visited the northern border near the border town of (Qiriat Shmona), the information he received was a little different. The commander of the northern group of the Israeli Army, Major General Yitzhaq

(Mordekhay) made it clear that the threat is still visible there every day. Islamic terrorist groups, as he put it, can carry our missile attacks any time. That happens on a periodic basis. Shots were recently fired at a family from Russia in Qiriat Shmona, for example, after they settled into their new home. What is particularly macabre is that the attack was carried out with a Russian missile.

The Syrian military forces also pose a threat, Mordekhay stated, stressing that Syria has more and, above all, more mobile weapons systems today than during the Yom Kippur war. One must bear in mind this capability during all political negotiations, he pointed out. Syria might attack immediately if President al-Asad so desires. Mordekhay stated that the mission of his unit is to ensure the survival of the citizens and of the state. After the briefing by Mordekhay, Ruehe stressed that the peace process must be shaped actively and that negotiations in Washington should lead to a stable and lasting peace. Ruehe announced that the list of states not allowed to receive weapons from Germany is being revised. It remains to be seen whether Israel will be deleted from the list or not. It is not quite clear yet whether Israel will receive the third submarine requested, but there are signs suggesting that. Ruehe did not want to discuss weapons deliveries. A state secretary rather than the minister will negotiate this issue. He is responsible for political and strategic dialogue, which has been successfully initiated, he said. Ruehe will meet once more with his counterpart Rabin this afternoon. Currently he is visiting a base in Haifa. He will return to Germany this evening.

Ruehe Stresses Military Cooperation

LD2904153893 Hamburg DPA in German 1400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Tel Aviv (DPA)—Germany and Israel want to deepen cooperation in the military and defense sphere at all levels despite financial constraints. This was stated by Federal Defense Minister Volker Ruehe and his Israeli counterpart and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to journalists in Tel Aviv today. Ruehe was ending a three-day visit to Israel.

He expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him by his hosts and said he was impressed by the performance capacity of the Israeli Army. With regard to Israel's desire for further material support, Ruehe referred, however, to the high costs of the Bundeswehr due to the integration of the former GDR Armed Forces. Rabin evaded answering a question concerning further aid and said projects are "under discussion".

An Israeli request for a third Dolphin-type submarine was not denied. Two boats of this type—costing 800 million German marks—were promised to Israel during the Gulf war and are currently under construction. HAARETZ newspaper reported, however, that Ruehe told his discussion partner that a further submarine could not be supplied free of charge. No confirmation of this was given by either side.

Rabin said that cooperation is taking shape within the framework of the legal restrictions applicable. He was referring in this context to his country's wish to be deleted from the German list of states in crisis areas, to which special arms export restrictions apply. Ruehe previously said on this subject that other states also have the same wish and that this will have to be discussed in Bonn.

Moldovan Prime Minister: Embassy To Open in Jerusalem

TA2904142593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Republic of Moldova wishes to open an embassy and a consulate in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that an announcement to this effect was made this morning by visiting Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli in the course of a meeting with Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz.

The two men agreed on behalf of their countries to cooperate in business entrepreneurship courses to be launched by the Jewish Agency in Moldova.

Some 45,000 Jews still live in the republic. Mr. Dinitz thanked the guest for the assistance extended to Jews who wish to emigrate.

Japanese Delegation Tours High-Tech Industries

TA2804183493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Japan and Israel are stepping up their trade ties, and a high-level delegation of Japanese businessmen are touring Israeli industry, including Israel Aircraft Industries and high-tech firms. Harley Braidman reports:

Israel's trade with Japan last year totaled $1.7 billion, with Israeli imports exceeding exports significantly for the first time [sentence as heard]. But the visit of nine important Japanese industrial leaders may give a boost to Japanese investment in Israeli high-tech firms—research and development and computers. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Mikha Harish told me the Japanese were slowly moving against the Arab boycott, and he hoped that soon there would be direct flights between Tokyo and Lod airports. [passage omitted]

The fact that Israel has economic agreements with the United States and the EC has apparently influenced the Japanese, and joint ventures may well be in the offing.

King Husayn Addresses 'First Group' of Returnees

JN2904183893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Remarks by King Husayn to "first group" of returnees to West Bank and Gaza Strip at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] As I look at these good faces in this gathering, I recall with the brothers and dear members of our people memories of the years and an arduous long trek. I share the feelings you must be having as you are about to return to the homeland. You will always occupy a special place in our hearts, and we shall always take pride in our brotherly bonds. This is part of your large homeland, where you have been staying among kin. You did well to mention the emigres and supporters [Palestinians and Jordanians respecitvely]; this is the formula that, thanks be to God, has crystallized into a reality that we have lived together in these difficult times in the life of this Arab nation.

Please convey to the kinfolk and dear ones our pride in their steadfastness. In the name of each and every one in this part of your greater homeland and the members of your family here, extend to all of them our profound sentiments of love and appreciation. We pray to God that this major step will signal the beginning of rights being reinstated, so that if and when peace comes, it will prove such a lasting one that may be safeguarded and accepted by future generations. We pray that God will help us and the people in this country to pursue our efforts to work and give of ourselves on this land—your land and the land of your kin and brothers—so that we may be a torch lit by democracy, to participate in shouldering responsibilities, the spirit of the one family, and respect for human rights. We hope we will be able to serve as a model and example which our brothers throughout our greater Arab homeland will give it the credit it deserves. We will march together toward a future that I hope will turn out to our satisfaction insofar as full Arab rights are concerned.

You will always occupy a special place in our hearts, and we will remember you in your different locations—in Jerusalem, in the occupied land. We take pride in the fact that we have lived together here during a difficult stage. We have known you and will keep in touch—Palestine and Jordan, the emigres and supporters. We pray to God that the efforts of all of us will bear fruit and achieve their objectives. We will do all that we can—in coordination with the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people—to promote a just and general solution whereby Palestinians are assured of their rights on their national soil, and all others are assured a different life than the one all of us have had throughout these years.

God bless you, and hopefully, we will keep in constant touch and we will hear good news, God willing. I ask you on behalf of myself and from all of us here, to convey our feelings of love, appreciation, and gratitude.

Israeli Decision To Allow Deportees Return Said 'Positive'

JN2904105993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Nominal Return and the Deportee File"]

[Text] Israel's agreement to allow the return of 30 Palestinian veteran deportees is a gain, and its importance cannot be minimized. At the same time, this gain should not under any pretext be exaggerated, especially since the deportee file is still thick and open and the issue of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur is ongoing and awaiting an appropriate solution.

We consider the return of those Palestinian deportees a gain that could be the first of its kind to directly take place on the ground. This is especially since the namelist of returning deportees includes a number of national Palestinian leaders from the occupied land, whose absence from their social environment, left a leadership gap that was hard to fill.

Moreover, the return of those deportees, who spent varying numbers of years outside their homeland, and the timing of the announcement of their return on the eve of the ninth round are signs that this round may be different from previous rounds. They are also a more serious indicator that the United States is living up to some of the promises made during preparations to resume the negotiations.

This step is positive and has special significance. However, it does not prevent us from reminding that all the other main issues, which have been under discussion for one and a half years, did not achieve any progress. This leads to the fear that such a step is a political cover for the other issues that require a quick solution.

Despite all this, we hope that the return of those deportees to their homes will be a prelude to the return of hundreds of other deportees, including 400 Palestinian citizens in southern Lebanon. We also hope that this nominal return is a sign that the negotiations are taking a serious path that would achieve the hopes pinned on them by Arabs and Palestinians, including the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that is acceptable to future generations.

'Immediate' U.S. Move Said Needed To Avoid Talks Deadlock

JN2904093393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Will Optimism Over Successful Negotiations Subside?"]

[Text] Statements by Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf and Palestinian chief delegate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi after a long session of negotiations with the Israelis show signs that the optimism that prevailed at the start of the resumed negotiations is subsiding.

Al-'Allaf said that the Israeli delegation did not bring anything new. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the same thing. This makes one think that Israel is beginning its usual journey of maneuvering and prevarication.

If this is correct, then Israel would have premeditatedly decided to torpedo the negotiations and foil the peace process. This is because the Arab parties will not tolerate any Israeli maneuvers and prevarications as they did during the past eight rounds. Moreover, they will not accept new obstacles planted by Israel in the way of the peace process.

Hence, the U.S. Administration, which pledged to activate the negotiations and do its best to render them successful in order to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle, should make an immediate move before Israel continues its maneuvers and deadlocks the negotiations from the beginning.

The U.S. Administration, which chose to become a full partner in the negotiations with the approval of all parties, should curb Israel's inclination toward persisting with the game of maneuvering and prevarication and force it, without delay, to discuss the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher promised that his country would play an honest, active, and impartial role.

Yitzhaq Rabin, head of the Israeli Government, promised to offer important concessions and abandon the familiar Israeli intransigence. He did so in order to show Israel's goodwill. Based on this, the Arab delegations agreed to resume the negotiations.

It is true that Israel's agreement to return a number of veteran deportees is a positive step. However, this step will remain defective if Israel does agree to return the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur in southern Lebanon.

Our worst fear is that returning the veteran deportees and preventing the new deportees from returning to their homes is an Israeli game to exacerbate differences within the Palestinian ranks.

Minister Accuses News Network of Violating Laws

NC2904125293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Higher Public Attorney Munir 'Uwaydat has referred a memorandum from Information Minister Michel Samahah to Fawzi Abu-Murad, public attorney at the Beirut Court of Appeals. The memorandum accuses Independent Cable News [al-shabakah al-mustaqillah li al-'i'lam], ICN, [preceding abbreviation in English] of violating laws and standard regulations.

'Uwaydat called for apprehending anyone who has violated Clause 317 of the Penal Code and for measures to ensure the violation stops.

The information minister's memorandum makes particular reference to a newscast carried by ICN on the night of Tuesday 27 April and states that ICN has repeatedly aired films and political commentaries calling for revolution, sectarian sedition, public unrest, and the regime's overthrow. In his memorandum, Samahah calls for the appropriate measure to be taken.

ICN Offices 'Sealed'

NC3004065593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The offices of the Independent Cable News, ICN, have been sealed by order of the public attorney of the Beirut Court of Appeals, who gave instructions to ban its transmission for broadcasting too many reports that undermine national unity and disturb public security. A unit from the Internal Security Forces, backed up by units from the State Security and Public Security Forces, carried out the orders. They entered the ICN building, told the employees to leave, and sealed the offices.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Targets Near Sidon

NC3004062793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] A short while ago, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sidon reported that two Israeli helicopters carried out a raid and fired four rockets against Jabal al-Halib and the southern approach to 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 0700 today. The correspondent added that the army forces present in the area opened intensive antiaircraft fire at the two raiding helicopters. The correspondent noted that an Israeli reconnaissance flight has been flying over Sidon since 0100 today.

PFLP-GC Tunnel Targeted

NC3004063993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] We begin our newscast with a report from our correspondent in the south that two Israeli Cobra helicopters, coming from the direction of the sea, fired a rocket at a tunnel in the eastern quarter of 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The tunnel belongs to the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC]. The same tunnel has been the target of six similar raids since 1985. The PFLP-GC was planning to inaugurate it in the next few days.

Citing security sources, our correspondent has reported that gunmen last night entered a house near the Arab bakery in al- Baraksat area of 'Ayn al-Hulwah. They killed three brothers from the Tripoli-based Islamic Unification Movement. They are Jawad, Salim, and Nabil al-Hasan.

PFLP-GC Source on Raid

NC3004090593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] REUTER reported that three people were wounded in today's Israeli raid, while AFP quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that one person was hurt. The Palestinians inside 'Ayn al- Hulwah camp fired rockets at the aircraft.

A responsible Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command source said the area targeted by the raid has been free of any military presence since the Lebanese Army's deployment in July 1991. The source called on the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the peace talks and stressed the need to step up armed struggle and strengthen the intifadah and the national resistance in Lebanon.

Deportee Spokesman al-Rantisi on Sit-In

NC2904141093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Report by correspondent Suhayl Abu-Fa'ur from Marj al-Zuhur—recorded]

[Text] The Palestinian deportees spent the third night of their sit-in at the approaches to the homeland near Zummarayya Crossing, facing the occupation's vehicles and troops and asserting their rejection to the ongoing negotiations.

Before noon today, their spokesman, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, held a news conference at the site of the sit-in, saying that the deportees are unanimous in their decision to continue the sit-in and that discussion is under way to take further measures. He affirmed the deportees' insistence on the full implementation of Resolution 799.

On the announced return of 35 deportees, he said: We are afraid that returning them might be a barter deal at the expense of the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. If so, it is a crime and a blow to the deportees, and those who accepted this deal should be ashamed. If this is true, we will ask the 35 men not to return at all. But if the return of these 35 is a step toward returning all 4 million deportees, then we support the repatriation of any Palestinian deportee.

The leaders of the march held a referendum by secret ballot among those who staged the sit-in on continuing it and giving the leadership the right to make the appropriate decisions. Some 73 percent of the deportees agreed to continue the sit-in.

Al-Rantisi: Exiles' Return 'Stab in the Back'

NC3004111693 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, April 30 (AFP)—The return of a group of 30 long-time deportees to the West Bank is a "stab in the back" to the 400 men marooned in south Lebanon, their spokesman said Friday [30 April].

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, a leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said Israel's goodwill gesture in allowing back 30 exiles was being made "at our expense."

Last December, Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to south Lebanon for two years, a sentence since slashed to one year with 101 allowed to return immediately.

Al-Rantisi said the remaining 396 deportees still rejected that compromise deal, reached between Israel and the United States, and insisted they all be returned at once, as demanded in U.N. Security Council Resolution 799.

A first group of 15 long-time Palestinian exiles was due to cross from Jordan into the occupied West Bank on Friday, followed by another 15 next week.

Al-Rantisi, who had called on the 30 not to go back, described their return as a "stab in the back."

The deportees have spent a fourth night camped out in front of an Israeli army checkpoint at Zummarayya at the entrance to the "security zone" in south Lebanon.

They have been there since Monday, when they marched from their camp two kilometres (one mile) away to protest their "betrayal" by the return of Palestinian negotiators to the talks with Israel in Washington.

The men were deported for their links with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which oppose the peace talks.

Al-Hariri Leaves for Damascus 29 Apr

NC2904204093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus this evening in response to an invitation to a dinner banquet to be held by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Al-Hariri is expected to meet with a number of Syrian officials.

Al-Shar' Returns After Attending Karachi Conference

JN2904185193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after attending the Islamic foreign ministers' conference held in Karachi from 25 to 29 April.

Commentary Rejects Partial Withdrawal From Territories

JN2904152593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The second session of the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli talks ended yesterday just like the first session. We are extremely afraid that matters will continue in this manner, so the ninth round, like the former rounds, will be a waste of time and effort. Likewise, sitting at the negotiating table would be the end rather than the start of these negotiations.

So far, the Israelis have not offered anything tangible that would convince anyone that they are serious about their endeavors to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Even when the Israelis talk about withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, they only talk about making a withdrawal from the territories and not a full withdrawal from the territories. There is, of course, a great difference between these two phrases. Making a withdrawal from the territories, which Israel is talking about, means a partial withdrawal, regardless of the magnitude of such a withdrawal. Accordingly, this means that Israel will not relinquish the whole occupied Arab territories but will maintain its occupation of some territories on the pretext of the so-called security requirements. Here, Israel once again plays the tune of secure borders. Experience has confirmed that such secure borders are an unsound theory which cannot hold up if objectively discussed in this age when sophisticated arms can penetrate all borders, no matter how far they may be.

Syria and the Arabs reject the talk about making a withdrawal from the occupied territories, particularly the Golan. Israel is fully aware of this fact, and realizes that Syria will not sell out a particle of soil in the Golan and other occupied Arab territories. Israel also realizes that the Arabs will not relinquish any of their legitimate rights. These rights were recognized by the international community and were stipulated in the Security Council resolutions on whose bases the peace process was established.

These statements and practices on the ground by Israeli officials will not serve the peace process; they will place the decisive talks of the ninth round at a crossroads. They will also seriously jeopardize the entire peace process. For many years, the Israelis have boasted an alleged desire for peace, holding the Arabs responsible for the volatile situation in the Middle East. For four decades, the Israelis also tried to depict the Arabs as the enemies of peace at a time when Israel was launching successive attacks against the Arabs and their territories. Today, following eight rounds of talks, the Israelis are proving to the world that they are against peace. Since the Madrid conference, and during the rounds of talks, the Arabs have proved their genuine desire to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The Syrian delegation submitted an integrated document in the sixth round. The world unanimously welcomed this document because it laid down practical bases to achieve peace, whereas the Israelis did not submit any serious or substantial proposal to confirm that they are serious about peacemaking. Instead, they persisted in their intransigence and placed successive obstacles to peace.

Today, the world realizes which party stands against peace and which party opens the doors wide to peace. No doubt, the United States, which pledged to render the peace process a success by playing a full partner's role, is well aware of this fact. This awareness will prompt it to remove the obstacles to the peace process which Israel is placing, so Israel, in turn, may abide by the bases of this process. Otherwise, this decisive round will not yield anything, and this historic opportunity to achieve peace in the Middle East may be lost.

Columnist Questions U.S. Handling of Waco 'Holocaust'

JN2904125293 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 8

["Opinion" column: "Human Rights and the Texas Ranch" by 'Izz-al-Din Darwish]

[Excerpts]) If what happened in Waco, Texas happened anywhere else in the world that is free from U.S. custodianship, the situation would have been totally different. Voices would have been raised from all sides demanding protection of human rights and sanctions. The U.S. Administration itself would have hurried to make allegations and draw a list of what it calls states sponsoring terrorism. Yet, nothing of the sort happened despite the brutality of that holocaust. [passage omitted]

The crime occurred without much clamor, and resulted only in a show of regret by some U.S. officials. This attitude gives many indications on the meaning of U.S. democracy and respect for human rights in that country, whose officials say it bases its policy towards others on democracy and respect for human rights. Where were democracy and human rights in that holocaust?

Afghanistan

'Jihadi' Leaders' Meeting Postponed To 30 Apr

LD2904171293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Regarding the session of the jihadi leaders, esteemed Aziz Morad, head of the Presidency's Press Office, told the correspondent of the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY: The session of the jihadi leaders, due to be held today in Jalalabad with the participation of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the esteemed prime minister-designate [Golboddin Hekmatyar], was not held due to the engagement of a number of participants elsewhere. This session, God willing, will be held tomorrow at the meeting venue after the arrival of all leaders. At this meeting talks will be held on the structure of the cabinet and continuation of the cease-fire.

Shells Fired at Kabul 29 Apr; No Fatalities

LD2904171493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Fifteen artillery and mortar shells today hit some regions in the first and fourth wards of Kabul city. A spokesman of the security forces said to the correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency that these artillery and mortar shells [fired] from the south and western directions hit non-residential regions. Fortunately no loss of life was reported and all shells hit the mountain.

Rabbani Speech on Islamic State Anniversary

LD2904170693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1640 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani on 28 April marking first anniversary of foundation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in the conference hall of the Ministry of Internal Affairs—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Brethren, sisters, brave and epic-making mojahedin, Muslim and brave compatriots and dear guests, peace and the blessing of God be on you. Above all I congratulate you all—dear compatriots wherever you are—the devout mojahedin and the courageous refugees who have not yet returned to their beloved country. At this historic moment I send prayers to the pure soul of the blood-drenched martyrs who by shedding their pure blood hoisted the glorious banner of Islam and freedom on the top of every mountain and on every desert of this country. Marking the first victory anniversary of Afghanistan, Islamic revolution in reality is an act of glorifying the sacred jihad of the courageous people of our country, appreciating the unforgivable work of our devout mojahedin who by accepting enormous sacrifices have opened a new chapter in the contemporary history of Afghanistan and in the world. It is also an act of marking the victory of light over darkness and the victory of justice over arrogance and injustice. The Islamic revolution of Afghanistan is the result of pains and shedding the pure blood of the devout people who during the 14-year long jihad stood up with unprecedented firmness and endurance against an aggressive superpower who, as a fearful giant, extended its evil shadow over a large number of countries. The mojahedin fought with courage and finally defeated the aggressive enemy who in their own imaginary and futile view, regarded themselves as invincible. They were defeated in such a shameful manner that it is hard to remember anything like it in contemporary history. The people of Afghanistan during these 14 years endured enormous pains and difficulties. Some one-and-a-half million men from the best sons of this country were martyred and approximately one million persons were injured or maimed. And over five million people of this country were forced to leave the country and become refugees. Enormous losses were inflicted on our national economy. As a matter of fact the infrastruction of our country's weak economy was ruined. Our national income followed a downward trend with each passing year. Factories and production units were either destroyed or stopped functioning. As a result of destruction or damage to the irrigation network the output of agricultural products fell. Communication lines and bridges were destroyed. Hospitals and public utility installations were ruined. But despite all those great losses of life and property, there was not the slightest damage to the combatant morale of our people. Instead they became braver and courageously confronted the enemy to such an extent as to inflict a complete defeat on it.

The people of Afghanistan are entitled to celebrate with happiness the first anniversary of the victory of their Islamic revolution because as a result of the victory of our Islamic revolution once again the historic deeds of this soil's brave men have been registered in the history of the region and the world in bold letters. The ideology of communism—as a school of atheism and the misled—collapsed, the Soviet empire dissolved, the Berlin wall, as a symbol of despotism, which for many years divided a nation and even families in the heart of Europe, came down. After many years of living in slavery and in shackles, a large number of countries in Asia and Africa attained freedom. The political and geographical face of the world changed. New relations and links came about among nations. The victory of the Islamic revolution in our country was not an incidental event but is the product of the unlimited suffering of our heroic and martyr-nurturing nation who for its implementation made sacrifices for a long time. The creatures of God by the lofty teaching of Islam are obliged to rise for the removal of oppression, deviation and corruption from human society, and not to spare the sacrifice of their lives and property to realize them. Following the orders of God, your mojahed sons years ago resorted to jihad and struggle to fold the rug of sedition and corruption, and suffered much pain and hardship, and a number of them received martyredom. Because throughout history our nation has had the great mission of freedom fighting and many a time confronted the bullies of history and emerged victorious. This time too for the defense of their religion and independence they entered the bloodiest war against invaders. When 14 years ago the Red Army invaded our beautiful country in collaboration with their depraved agents, our nation which had only its strong faith [applause] once again faced a great test. No one was of the opinion that this nation would be able to stand up against the satanic forces of world communism.

But the general uprising of our heroic nation against a satanic force, armed to the teath, and the consequent defeat of the Red Army nullified all military and political equations and standards of the world. Every revolution inevitably passes through various problems, and goes through dangerous roads but our Islamic revolution has passed through the most dangerous roads and opened its way toward the Islamic system. The establishment of the Islamic State in Afghanistan is the result of 14 years of efforts and sacrifices of our Muslim nation, a state which since its establishment, following the deeds of our dear Prophet, peace be upon him, took the world aback by the announcement of the policy of forbearance and forgiveness, and showed that the mojahedin are the symbol of God's rage in the battlefield but in the field of politics and administration they are the embodiment of mercy and forgiveness. Their could have been people who consider the Islamic State a whip of revenge but with the announcement of the general amnesty by the Islamic state of the mojahedin all those views were proven wrong. [applause].

Despite the fact that the Islamic State was newly established and despite the conspiracy hatched against it, over the past year it has taken positive steps to consolidate the political stability of the country, and the prosperity of the nation. Our country's faithful and afflicted people, who during the 14 years of jihad suffered many pains and hardships, had many expectations from the establishment of their Islamic State, expecting that under their Islamic state, they would live without any pain and sorrow and threat but, unfortunately, as a result of the disruptions and armed clashes, this wish was realized less in the past year.

The Islamic State, despite numerous difficulties, during the past year has taken a number of steps of which the following are notable:

1) Convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council and consulting public opinion so as to elect the head of state. This has been the first time in the history of our country that election of peoples representatives has been carried out on the basis of proportional population representation to ensure justice and the rights of all the compatriots.

2) Expulsion of a large section of irresponsible armed units from the capital of the country to ensure security in Kabul city.

3) Increasing wages and financial privileges of civil servants, employees and service personnel despite the financial crisis facing the state.

4) Extending assistance to those who have suffered as a result of incidents in Kabul city.

5) (?Taking fundamental steps) to organize a new Islamic and national army that will manifest its jihadi identity and character.

6) Expansion of contacts between the center and the provinces of the country.

7) Relative stabilization of prices and prevention of uncontrollable price rises in comparison with past years.

8) With the establishment of the Islamic regime, Afghanistan came out of political and economic isolation imposed on her as a result of occupation by the former Soviet Union and its dependence to that country, and once again became an active member of the region and world community. The Islamic State of Afghanistan became a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO. Afghan delegations took part in UN conferences, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement, and by stating the position of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan strengthened relations between our country and other countries of the world.

Dear and faithful compatriots, during this historic and proud day, we will briefly glance at the main aspects and objectives of the Islamic State. The political and legal order of the Islamic State is based on the lofty principles and teachings of Islam and the rich Islamic culture. All laws and regulations to organize society will be based, in its all dimensions, on the golden principles of Islam.

With the observation of the fact that Islamic laws answer all the real needs of the time and the national and historic realities of the people of our country, the Islamic State of the Republic of Afghanistan will function on the basis of the division of the three powers namely the executive, legislative, and judicial powers. The president will be at the head of Islamic State.

The political and administrative system of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is based on the principle of centralism. Afghanistan will be an Islamic state, independent, unitary and indivisible.

The people of Afghanistan will be able to take part in the political life of their country without discrimination and privilege through formation of parties, political and social organizations in the framework of Islamic laws and regulations and on the basis of the needs of the society.

The Islamic State will draft all necessary laws and regulations for the political, social, economic and cultural activities of the society, and will prepare the ground for legal activities.

Elections in Afghanistan will be held in accordance with Islamic principles and will be direct, secret, and on the basis of proportional population representation.

The Islamic State is dutybound to further deepen the lofty teachings of Islam in society, and to defend the independence, sovereignty, national identity, and unity and the territorial integrity of the country. The Islamic State will give priority to the principles of maintaining peace, stability, internal security, and the defense capabilities of the country.

In this direction it considers the formation and strengthening of the Islamic and national army the most important of its duties. As a peace loving country and a member of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic State of Afghanistan will not join military treaties, and does not allow the establishment of foreign military bases on its territory. Defense against invaders, of which our country's history has many examples, the protection of independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and finally the defense and safeguarding of religious values, and historic pride constitute the fundamental goal of the formation of the Army of the Islamic State and the basis of the military system in the Islamic State of Afghanistan. In its historic internal and external organization, the Islamic State of Afghanistan takes into account high Islamic and national interests of the people of Afghanistan, and during the compilation of its social policy takes into account, without prejudice and privileges, the needs of the people and objective realities. The Islamic State of Afghanistan observes, as one of the fundamental principles of Islamic teachings, respect for human dignity, and guarantees freedom of speech and the press and the right of peaceful gatherings, scientific, and cultural activities within the Islamic law, and consider safe from violation private ownership, human dignity, and prestige. The consolidation of the national unity of the Afghan nation rests at the top of the Islamic State's duties, and fraternity and cooperation among all nationalities and tribes of the country, and their fair participation in the political structure of the country, all kinds of socio-economic and cultural activities to implement the goal of the jihad of our Muslim nation are among the main aims of the Islamic state. To put an end to the lack of trust among jihadi groups, which is the creature of the time of the fighting and past armed clashes, the Islamic State considers necessary the participation of all mojahedin forces in the structure of the government, and considers important and decisive their role in the ensuring of security and the building and reconstruction of our ruined and war-afflicted country. Political struggle by legal and peaceful methods is highly commended but use of weapons to reach political aims is rejected and creates tragedy. For instance, during the rocket bombardment of Kabul all of us saw the most painful tragic scenes. The state asks all esteemed jihadi leaders to implement the recent [word indistinct] of peace as a valuable step for permanent cessation of fighting and the formation of a broad-based government and the participation of all jihadi forces. [applause]. The Islamic State of Afghanistan needs the assistance and support of you heroic nation for the fulfillment of its mission and duties. After Almighty God's help the presence of you, the people, on the scene, provides a light for the resolution of the most complicated crisis and problems. In the field of national security and defense: The ensuring of security across the country [word indistinct] under present conditions, that 14-year war has converted our country into a ruin, and psychological and political crises inside the country and foreign interference from abroad pour oil on those flames, so this is one of the most important national responsibilities of our state and the nation.

On the basis of the strategy of peace, understanding, and fraternity, the state has asked all parties and groups to take an active part as brothers in the ensuring of all-out peace and the consolidation of national unity of the country without party, regional, ethnic, and tribal concerns. The participation of the state in the Islamic accord after the decision of the Resolution and Settlement Council demonstrates the goodwill of the state and its continuous search for the restoration of peace and security. I hope that with the alleviation of the obstacles that have come about in the way of the implementation of the accord, a way for implementing its provisions will be found very quickly. The Islamic State is of the opinion that stability and security in the country depend on the existence of a regular army, and a regular army requires the observation of scrupulous order. In other words the security of a country depends on an army and the perfection of an army depends on its order and discipline. Therefore, the process of the formation of an Islamic and national army will be carried on with vigour. The Islamic army is made of all jihadi forces and good members of the previous army. This army will defend the high values of the school of Islam, independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty and unity of the country.

The Army of the Islamic State is a people's army and is not restricted to a specific group or stratum. It will be beyond party and political rivalries, and will play its role in an orderly and disciplined way as a confident defender of Islamic and national sovereignty in the country. Because the duty of an army is the defense of geographical and political borders of the country, the control of the highways and the protection of the lives and property and the honor of the people in the cities will be given to the police force under the aegis of the Ministry of Internal Affairs after being reformed and organized.

In the Islamic State contrary to the previous regimes, police and security arrangements will not be a symbol of violence and rage nor will they be instruments of persecution and torture and imprisonment. It will be at the service of the tranquility and the security of the people and the cessation of sedition and chaos and the alleviation of the security problems of the people.

In the field of administration: In the new political and social conditions of the country, the Islamic State makes efforts for the administrative system of the country to be reformed in harmony with the lofty aims of the Islamic revolution, and a resolute campaign will be launched against corruption and incompetence. Talent, experience, and expertise will be given their appropriate value in the new administrative system of the country. String pulling, nepotism, exertion of influence which destroy any system from inside like termites will be fought against and serious measures will be taken against them. The Islamic State prefers to take gradual steps toward the reform and change of the administrative system of the country so that red tape is prevented and change comes in a regular and calm manner.

Thus steps will be taken toward a healthy adninistrative system that will be able to carry out state programs in the best way.

In the field of reconstruction: The Islamic State believes the reconstruction of the ruined country is a great historic jihad and campaign. It will embark on planning. We believe that the great and historic mission of reconstruction and the building of this afflicted country will successfully be accomplished with the help of you people whose help realized the success of the victorious jihad. Without doubt the active and wide participation of you people plays a decisive and fundamental role in the construction of the country and the revival of the farms, industries, administrations, organs of public services, schools and universities. The Islamic state endeavors to create suitable conditions to secure friendly countries' and international organizations' cooperation for the reconstruction of the country. It also provides grounds for private investment of those entrepreneurs who live abroad. In the field of social and cultural affairs: Relying on its popular policy, which was declared at the commencement of the Islamic State, the Islamic State reasserts that the opportunity of work and return to those people who want to work for their people and country is available so that all of us prove by our deeds that we have sympathy with the country and are loyal to Islam and [words indistinct]. The Islamic state believes that participation in elections on the basis of population has resolved tribal and nationality problems and deprivation in political and social aspects. The Islamic State believes that basic freedoms, the ensuring of human rights, especially for the womenfolk, the creation of an open political atmosphere among the people, the freedom of the activities of political parties, freedom of speech and thinking, within the limits of lofty islamic laws, will be ensured in the best way, in the political system of Islamic Afghanistan.

Islam has ensured human rights better than other systems, and, observing Islamic hejab [dress code], our sisters can participate in a meritorious way in scientific, cultural, health and social activities. Because the total spirit and the foundation of our revolution is Islam, and Islam as Almighty God's chosen religion pays profound attention to education and learning, the Islamic State along with the people and jihadi parties is dutybound to open the closed doors of schools and scientific centers to the oppressed children in all provinces of the country. Keeping closed the doors of knowledge and culture, seminaries and schools, is detrimental to the future of the country.

The Islamic State, in addition to the existing educational centers, is endeavoring to set up new scientific and cultural centers. Exchange of lecturers and dispatch of students abroad for higher education will enjoy an important place in the educational strategy of the Islamic State. To develop the national culture the state has taken necessary measures and will try to work for the advancement of culture, praiseworthy traditions, language and literature of all nationalities, tribes, and clans. The growth and progress of educational, scientific, and professional standards are among the priorities of the Islamic State and we are hoping that all Afghan intellectuals and scholars who are living outside the country will return to the country and take part in the revival of scientific, training, and cultural foundations of the country and thus discharge their historic responsibilities.

In the field of economy and agriculture: The Islamic State will combat unemployment and the brain-drain which have close links with economic poverty and will prepare the ground, as far as possible, for suitable work conditions and for utilizing talents. The state will activate properly and rationally the sources of output in both private and government sectors, and set up a just and humanitarian system of distribution. As the Islamic religion emphasizes the expansion of economic and social justice, the government, in consideration of the lofty objectives of Islam, will fight against unemployment, poverty, and hunger. National industries will be encouraged and those industries having raw materials inside the country will be particularly encouraged. Advance of expertise will be encouraged both in private and government sectors and will be planned on new bases. National traders are being protected by the state and they, in understanding with the government, can embark on required import and export of goods. The material resources and wealth of the country will be utilized for the prosperity and well- being of the people of Afghanistan. In regard of their proper utilization, advantageous contracts will be concluded with other countries and foreign companies. To prevent dishonesty and hoarding the government will control and watch prices and trading in the market.

The banking system will be regulated and reorganized along Islamic guidelines and the government will fight against usury which is a serious and deadly illness. In consideration of possible means and internal and national resources efforts will be made to reduce economic dependency on the outside world and steps are being taken for economic self-sufficiency. Emphasizing the principle of self- sufficiency, of course, does not mean isolation from the world economy. Efforts will be made to make internal resources profitable by attracting international economic cooperation.

Afghanistan is an agricultural country. It has fertile land, plenty of underground water and a cheap work force which provide the potential for development, broadening of agriculture and farming. The Islamic Government is planning to bring all the existing agricultural land under cultivation relying on the determination of the country's peasants. Furthermore the state is planning to bring new land under cultivation by the construction of dams over the rivers and building of reservoirs.

A portion of the country's agricultural land has not been cultivated due to the 14-year long war and enormous damage has been inflicted on the irrigation network; their renovation and revival will be seriously considered. [words indistinct] In recent years income from the sale of farming products such as pelts, astrakhan, wool and carpets has been decreased and the number of animals has been reduced. The government in this area will draft plans and programs to help farmers and to increase the level of output of farming products.

In the field of communication and essential services: War has inflicted great damage to the country's transport newwork. Almost all asphalt roads have been damaged. Bridges and transport facilities have been destroyed. Transport vehicles have been lost. Since Afghanistan is a mountainous country it still does not have a railway and air traffic too is facing shortcomings and difficulties. The easiest way for people to communicate is to travel by road. Therefore, repairs and revival of the roads and transport network is at the top of the government planning programs. Parallel to this the possibility for the construction of railways will also be assessed. In consideration of the role and fast development of the information and communication network in other countries and in light of the fact that outdated and backward technology is in use in our country, it is required that serious attention should be paid to communication. It is one of the development programs of the state to extend the radio-TV network to cover all the country. Furthermore development of the communication network including telephone, telegraph, and [words indistinct] is under serious attention of the government.

It should be mentioned that the system of power distribution in the cities has been insufficient from the beginning. The war and subsequent events furthermore undermined the system. The state will try to activate, as far as possible, the electric power stations, networks and power distribution installations. At the same time the state wants to assess the possibility for permanent removal of these problems.

In the field of foreign policy: In its foreign policy the Islamic State of Afghanistan follows the principle based on Afghanistan's high interest, the principle of reciprocal respect and reciprocal interest as well as respect for independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and equal rights in relations between countries. The Islamic State of Afghanistan wants fraternity, and Islamic friendship between the people of Afghanistan and the people of Islamic countries in consideration of the profound religious links; and wants the broadening and consolidation of all-round relations with these countries and other countries in the region and in the world on the basis of the national interest of Afghanistan. In consideration of the profound cultural ties and good neighborliness between the people of Afghanistan and the people of Pakistan and in expressing thanks for the disinterested assistance by the people and government of Pakistan during the jihad period, the Islamic State of Afghanistan announces that feasible conditions have been provided after the victory of the jihad and establishment of the Islamic State in Afghanistan, for the beginning of a new [word indistinct] good relations in conformity with the national interests of both countries.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan and Iran are joined by deep-rooted historic, cultural and religious links. The people and the state of Afghanistan are grateful to their Iranian brethren who during the years of jihad have selflessly supported the refugees and the cause of our country. We are in favor of the active participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the reconstruction of the economy of war-stricken Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia, as a prestigious and influential country in the Islamic world, has played a significant role in defense of the legitimate cause of the people of Afghanistan and the victory of Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. The Islamic state of Afghanistan, while gratefully appreciating the selfless assistance of the state and people of the fraternal country of Saudi Arabia, hopes that they will take an active part and play a decisive role in the reconstruction of our ruined country.

The Islamic state of Afghanistan welcomes the restoration of the independence of the Central Asian republics and is in favor of expanding relations with the republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and other republics. Afghanistan desires strengthening of relations with these republics in the political, economic, trade, and cultural fields. The state of Afghanistan is in favor of stability in these countries for their independent national development, and is ready to cooperate to prevent narcotics and arms smuggling. The Islamic State of Afghanistan will make necessary efforts for the voluntary return of Tajik refugees within the UN framework.

It is worth mentioning that other Arab and Islamic countries, in the course of the jihad of our nation and in the course of our struggle and fight against the forces of aggression and the puppet regime, have extended moral and material (?support) to our people. We take the opportunity to cordially thank them all.

The people of Afghanistan have good and useful political and economic relations with the countries of Asia and the Far East, China, India, and Japan. The Islamic state of Afghanistan is hopeful that such relations will be expanded with these countries in the interests of our peoples.

While we desire strengthening of relations with all countries, we express our appreciation to the [People's]

Republic of China; which has supported the legitimate struggle of our nation during the years of jihad. We believe that at the present time the ground is ready and suitable more than ever before for relations and cooperation between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of China.

The people of Afghanistan express appreciation for the positive stand and the assistance of the United States of America and the Western countries during the period of jihad and Hejrat [emigration], and expect that these countries will no longer wait or hesitate in the reconstruction of the ruined Afghanistan. The Russian Federation, as the political and legal inheritor of the former Soviet Union, is therefore involved in aggression against and destruction of Afghanistan. It is necessary that in establishing relations with Afghanistan, it should act in a manner demanded by the justice and conscience of the international community. Of course, this country has moral and legal responsibility to pay its moral and human debt to Afghanistan in the reconstruction and revitalization of the ruined Afghanistan.

The people of Afghanistan reserve the right of demanding war reparations from the Russian Federation, and in this connection we will carefully study the political and economic transformations in that country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan respects and observes the U.N. Charter, the universal declaration of human rights, and other international norms and principles, which will not be in opposition to the golden principles of Islam, the objective and principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan will follow its free judgement in international issues. Islamic Afghanistan which has tasted the bitter taste of aggression and intervention from outside in its internal affairs, opposes any kind of intervention and aggression, terrorism, resorting to force, threats and the use of force among the states, and demands the sincere implementation of international obligations.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan cannot remain indifferent and as a spectator in Islamic disputes, the pains and sufferings of the oppressed Muslim nation. The Islamic State and the people of Afghanistan support the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation and of the Moro Muslims of the Philippines. We resolutely condemn the slaughter of helpless Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina by ruthless Serb executioners and the former Yugoslavia, [shouts of God is great] and we demand that the United Nations and the Islamic countries prevent this painful tragedy by all means possible. The arms embargo against the Muslims of Bosnia should be abolished urgently so as to enable its suffering people to defend themselves.

On the Kashmir crisis, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is in favor of Pakistan and India resolving the issue through political means in the light of the Security Council resolutions.

Dear compatriots and epoch-making mojahedin, Afghanistan as a land of greatest historic pride; the history-making religion of Islam as the only shining torch of mankind's path; jihad as the greatest historic achievement and the miracle of the present era—all are the most dear trust from Almighty God at the disposal of you the heroic nation.

I hope distances created by armed conflicts change to unity, enmity to sincerity and fraternity, destruction to construction, prejudice to commitment and piety, ignorance to knowledge and virtue.

We hope that the second year of victory will be a new beginning for fraternity and brotherhood and nationwide peace and security in our country enabling us all together to join hands and take part in the rebuilding and reconstruction of our ruined country in reliance on Almighty God and the will of the noble sons of this land. May God bless you.

Bangladesh

Police, Residents Clash Over Burmese Refugees

BK2804053593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0425 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, April 28 (AFP)—At least 26 people were injured in clashes between police and local residents demanding early repatriation of Burmese Moslem refugees, local sources and witnesses said Wednesday.

The activists from the Rohgingya Repatriation Action Committee (RRAC) blocked the major highway linking this southeastern city with Teknaf town on the frontier as part of a one-day general strike, they said.

One witness said the clashes erupted after activists pelted stones at police, who fired back injuring at least 26 people. Security sources said six policemen were among the injured, and one local resident was reported in serious condition.

The RRAC and another similar group, backed by most major political groups, have been demonstrating since last year against the slow repatriation of the some 280,000 refugees, called Rohingyas.

They say the Rohingyas are causing environmental and social problems and becoming increasingly involved in crime.

More than 22,000 Rohingyas have been repatriated since September last year under an agreement between Bangladesh and Burma, but the process has been moving slowly for "technical reasons," an official here said without elaborating.

Meanwhile, the U.N. High Commisioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced Tuesday amid rising tension between locals and the refugees that it would initially spend three million dollars as compensation to Bangladeshis affected by the influx of the Rohingyas.

The Rohingyas began fleeing their homes in March 1991, alleging persecution by Burmese troops. The charges has been denied by Rangoon's military junta.

India Complaints on Border Crossings, Insurgents

BK2904070693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Bangladesh has assured India that it will look into specific complaints about insurgents from the northeastern part of India taking sanctuary in that country. The assurance was conveyed by the Bangladesh Rifles director general, Mr. M.A. Hossain, to the Border Security Force director general, Mr. T.T. Anantachari, at the three-day conference which ended in Dhaka yesterday. Our Dhaka correspondent says the other important issues which figured at the conference included illegal migration and smuggling of drugs and arms.

Meeting Abolishes Exchange Control Regulations

BK2904132993 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 24 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The government has decided to abolish a number of exchange control regulations with a view to making the economy more buoyant, creating a congenial atmosphere for unrestrained growth of trade and investment, and encouraging local and foreign investors in the country.

The national news agency, BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA, quoting Bangladesh Bank [state bank] sources said that this decision was made at a high-level meeting held yesterday with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair. It also reviewed the effects of the liberalization policy followed by the government during the past two years. The meeting was attended by among others the governor of Bangladesh Bank, the finance secretary, and senior officials of the bank.

The meeting expressed satisfaction that the liberalization policy has started yielding results. It has rejuvenated the economy and banks have started receiving more and more investment proposals. The meeting was informed that banks are giving approval to investment projects which will generate considerable employment opportunities.

According to the decisions made at this meeting, foreigners working in Bangladesh and foreign-owned companies operating in the country have been granted permission to take any amount of loan in local currency from domestic banks. These firms will also no longer require prior permission from the Bangladesh Bank to take short-term foreign currency loans from their headquarters abroad.

It has also been decided that from now on, hundred-percent foreign owned as well as joint venture industrial units in the export processing zones of the country can freely obtain foreign currency loans from abroad. Domestic banks have also been authorized to extend local currency loans to joint venture industries operating in the export processing zones up to 100 percent of the short-term foreign currency loans received by such industries from abroad.

The meeting also decided to relax many other exchange control regulations. Authorized dealers have been allowed to open foreign currency accounts in the country in the names of local and joint venture contracting firms employed to execute projects financed by foreign donors.

Annual travel quota entitlement for Bangladeshi nationals visiting countries other than SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member states and Burma has been enhanced from $2,000 to $2,500. For people visiting SAARC countries and Burma by land the travel quota entitlement has been enhanced from $150 to $250. This entitlement has been increased from $400 to $500 for citizens travelling to these countries by air.

The meeting also decided that prior permission of the Bangladesh Bank will no longer be required for remitting surplus earnings of foreign airlines, shipping companies, and courier services. Permission will also not be required for remitting the current expenses of foreign offices of the Bangladesh Biman [national airlines], the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, consular fees of foreign missions, pre-shipment inspection fees, and genuine export claims not exceeding 10 percent of the export proceeds realized.

India

Reaction to ICO Statement on India's Muslims

Minister Surprised

BK3004052893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, today expressed surprise that Pakistani prime minister, Balkh Sher Mazari, should be using the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] forum to seek the so-called safeguards for the rights and welfare of Muslims in India. In a statement, Mr. Khurshid said India was perfectly capable of looking after all its citizens without exception. Mr. Khurshid said as far as Mr. Mazari was concerned, he should exert himself to apprehend the culprits of the Bombay carnage.

Parliament Concerned

BK3004101493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Members in Rajya Sabha today expressed concern over the anti-India resolution adopted at the recently ended Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] meeting at Karachi. They asked the government to redouble its diplomatic efforts to win over the confidence of some countries who attended the conference.

Raising the matter as a special mention, Mr. I.K. Gujral - Janata Dal, expressed disappointment over the resolution passed by the ICO despite the fact that India had always upheld their cause. Supporting Mr. Gujral, others asked the center to project its policy on Kashmir in the right perspective at all international forums.

The incident of Pakistan using the meeting at Karachi for anti- India campaign was raised in the Lok Sabha also. Mr. Rabi Ray of the Janata Dal raising the issue during the zero hour demanded a statement from the government. He wanted to know what the government is doing when Islamabad is using the ICO platform for clubbing the Kashmir issue with the Palestinian and Bosnian problems.

Pakistan's Training of Mercenaries Called 'Irrefutable'

BK2904135693 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 93 p 1

[By A.R. Wig]

[Text] New Delhi, April 23—Intelligence agencies here are in possession of irrefutable evidence that Pak [Pakistani] Inter Services Intelligence] is imparting regular armed training to an estimated 8,000 mercenaries from some Middle East countries, including Iran, Sudan and Afghanistan, for subversive activities in J & K [Jammu and Kashmir].

It is also learnt that at least 350 trained mercenaries led by some regular Pak Army officials have already infiltrated into the Valley during the recent weeks through unmanned routes and are now trying to reorganise small militant groups which had suffered serious setback because of anti-subversive action plan launched by the security forces deployed in J & K and also along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Jammu sector.

It is officially stated that the manner in which some of the BSF [Border Security Force] pickets have been made specific targets in the Valley during the recent weeks clearly proved professional expertise of Pak-trained agents.

According to one intelligence source, the frequent lobbying of grenades on BSF patrol parties or ambushing convoys of the paramilitary forces indicated professional touch and the training imparted to subversive elements, who have infiltrated from across the border.

It is stated that despite repeated provocations, the security forces have been exercising utmost restraint in taking action against the mischievous elements who have infiltrated into the valley after their regular training in camps in PoK [Pakistan occupied Kashmir].

One reason for the stepped up militant activities in the Valley and their involvement in series of violent incidents during recent weeks is attributed by the intelligence agencies to the infiltration of the armed mercenaries led by ISI-trained army officials.

According to reliable information coming from across the border, part of arms and ammunition seized by the police in Maharashtra, following March 12 series of bomb blasts, had been shipped to India at the behest of Pak intelligence agencies. The Home Ministry sources said that efforts were being made to locate the country from where Pak undercover agents shipped the huge quantity of RDX and also latest sophisticated weapons like AK-56 rifles.

Sources in the intelligence units said that ISI's master plan for subversive activities, which have been uncoded here, included States other than J & K. It is learnt that a large number of ISI-trained agents based in some Middle East countries have already landed in some of the southern States, including Kerala, to indulge in acts of violence and create communal flare-up.

Sifting information emanating from across the border clearly suggested that Pak ISI had prepared a master plan some months ago to send charter ships carrying sophisticated arms and explosives to the coastal areas, particulary Bombay, for supplying the same to its undercover agents from Middle East who have been given specific targets in the sensitive States. Evidence has come to the Government's notice about active part being played by the ISI through its training camps in Bangladesh, close to the Indian border.

Sources in the Home Ministry have confirmed that the Government of India has issued special instructions to the State Governments to keep a strict watch on Pak nationals coming to India on fake passports and forged travel documents. Intelligence sources have confirmed that a large number of ISI-trained undercover agents have already arrived in some of the southern States under the guise of tourists or groups visiting places of pilgrimage. It is learnt that instructions have also been issued to State police organisations to launch special drives against Pak nationals overstaying in India and initiate steps for their deportation.

LTTE Frees 3 Compatriots in Tamil Nadu

BK3004034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, three Sri Lankan militants arrested under TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act] were freed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] men yesterday evening. The incident occurred at Madurantakam near Madras. The LTTE men also killed one policeman on the spot and seriously injured another two.

Home Minister on Kashmir, Communal Situation

BK2904161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Lok Sabha today that the center has no intention to impose any leader on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said restoration of normalcy in the valley is the first priority and any leader chosen by the people there through democratic means is acceptable to the government. Mr. Chavan was replying to the discussion on demands for grants for his ministry for 1993-94 which the house passed later after rejecting the opposition's cut motion. He said that if any autonomy has to be given to Jammu and Kashmir, it can be considered by the center within the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission [on center- state relations]. Though all states may also benefit from the recommendations, the autonomy should be more for Kashmir. He said there is no question of abrogating Article 370 [of Constitution giving special status to Kashmir] and it is a fact of life.

On the communal situation, Mr. Chavan told the House that it had deteriorated after the December sixth incident in Ayodhya. He appealed to all parties not to create any atmosphere of suspicion. He said the government is trying to bring a legislation as early as possible to consider disqualification of candidates even before the election if they misuse religion for poll purposes. He said the communal atmosphere and terrorist activities call for a reorientation of the police force. He disclosed that 17 battalions of Indian Reserve Police will be raised this year and latest arms and ammunition will be imported to meet the immediate need.

On the Jharkhand [tribals] issue, Mr. Chavan said that is for the [Bihar] state government and the Jharkhand leaders to come an agreement and the center will consider the proposal made by them. He said that the center is not in favor of appointing any state reorganization commission. It is also not against giving autonomy to Jharkhand.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Somnath Chatterji, moved three cut motions, of which two were put to vote. The house negatived the motions with 196 voting against and 61 in favor. These motions said the government had failed to protect the disputed structure at Ayodhya and to prevent the construction of a makeshift temple there.

Earlier, participating in the resumed debate, members called for a coordinated effort by the center and the state governments to tackle the worsening law and order situation in different parts of the country. They also called for an action plan to stop atrocities on the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and women.

Minister on Repatriation of Bangladesh Refugees

BK2904095693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that the government is in constant touch with its Bangladesh counterpart on the issue of speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to that country. The minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, told the house that a delegation from Bangladesh will visit the refugee camps in Tripura shortly. He said the Bangladesh Government has set up a nine-member committee headed by a cabinet minister to find a political solution to the problem of Chittagong Hill Tracts from where the refugees have crossed over to India.

Upper House Informed About PSLV Flight

BK2904095293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that the first development flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV, is planned in the second half of this year. Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha in a written answer today the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, said the second development flight of PSLV is scheduled a year after the first flight. Answering another question, Mr. Chaturvedi said that the Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] has envisaged a concept of a dedicated satellite Groundsat that could be launched by ISRO's geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle. He said this satellite could be used for eradicating illiteracy in rural areas and for rural development through audiovisual education and health hygiene, better agricultural practices, and family planning.

Iran

Yazdi Sermon Views Arab-Israeli Talks, Issues

LD3004120193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] This week's glorious Friday prayer rituals were held throughout the country on the eve of the auspicious anniversary of the birthday of the eighth bright star of the sky of Velayat and Imamate, His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him. Masses of worshippers participated in the ceremonies.

Tehran's Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah Yazdi. During the prayer sermons, the interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran marked Workers Day, Teachers Day, and honored the anniversary of the martyrdom of Scholar Morteza Motahhari, which coincides with Teachers Day, and spoke in length about them.

Ayatollah Yazdi referred to the approaching presidential elections which will be held in Khordad and said that massive participation in those elections will display the ever on the scene people of Iran's political maturity and awareness. He invited people to take part extensively in the elections and said: Each vote which is cast is like an arrow in the heart of those who speak nonsense against the world of Islam.

Explaining the importance of the hajj pilgrimage, Ayatollah Yazdi stressed that pilgrims visiting the House of God should gloriously perform their disavowal of the infidels.

He then referred to the current world issues and explaining the shameless crimes of the Serbs against the Muslim people of Bosnia- Herzegovina and condemned the silence of the Western world in the face of the extensive killing of Muslims in that region. He also requested that heads of Islamic countries pay attention and adopt practical measures to help the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On the compromise talks between the Arab governments and the Zionist regime, the interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to the important remarks of his eminence the leader and said: We hope that no agreement is signed in that regard as it would not have the least credibility to us and the world Muslims.

During the first sermon, the interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran referred to international workers day, 1 May, and devoted parts of the first sermon to labor laws and particularly women's right to work from spiritual and material point of view. He noted that in societies like Iran half of the workforce is comprised of women and stressed the need for paying serious attention to the right of women in their choice of work and said laws concerning women's employment are very important and vital.

Majles Speaker on Rushdie, Ties, Other Issues

LD2904114393 Tehran IRNA in English 0824 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said that Iran did not intend to send gunmen to kill the Indian-born British national Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of "The Satanic Verses".

"Iran neither had nor has any intentions of sending commandos to kill the apostate Salman Rushdie," the morning daily "TEHRAN TIMES" on Thursday quoted him as saying.

The late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, executed his Islamic duty when he issued the fatwa (Islamic decree) on the blasphemy committed by Rushdie, Nateq-Nuri noted.

Commenting on the fuss made by the West over the freedom of expression, he told the paper, "we also have freedom of expression and our religion binds us to act on such occasions, as in the case of apostate Rushdie, who has hurt the feelings of over one billion Muslims."

On Iran's ties with Western countries, the speaker said: "Iran's relations with the West draws a line which separates those countries with whom we wish to join hands and those from whom we wish to keep a distance."

Excluding the U.S., Nateq-Nuri noted that as far as other Western countries were concerned such ties were based on reciprocity, mutual respect and non-intereference in each others' internal affairs.

Pointing to Iran's good trade and economic relations with "certain countries in the West," he singled out the exclusion of Britain from the 6th Tehran international book fair, to be held in May, for that country's hostile stance against Iran on the Rushdie issue.

The speaker, former interior minister, admitted that there was a difference between the previous term of the Majles and the present one but scoffed at what Western media have said in their analysis on this issue.

"The most important difference of opinion which exists between the present and previous Majles is on the country's economy," he was quoted as saying.

The majority of the third term of the Majles believed in the state-controlled economy while the present deputies believe in privatization.

He touched on the forthcoming presidential elections and hoped that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would stand for the next term and expressed optimism "god willing he will win the elections."

On the composition of the future cabinet after the presidential elections, he said he believed the names of certain ministers would be dropped by the president while presenting the cabinet for Majles approval.

"The Majles will never forget its obligation towards the nation," he said referring to the recent impeachment of Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia who, however, received a vote of confidence on March 2.

The no confidence motion against Sa'idi-Kia was put on the agenda of the Majles in late February following the tragic air crash in Tehran between a passenger aircraft and a military plane earlier the same month which had no survivors. Earlier this year the country witnessed two train accidents.

"In future also the Majles will firmly use its due rights whatever they may be as envisaged in the Constitution," he concluded.

Speaker, Indian Envoy Discuss Mosque Incident

LD2404220993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Ramesh Chandra Arora, India's ambassador to Tehran, met Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri today. In the course of this meeting, Mr. Arora stressed the need for exchange of experience between the two countries in industry and agriculture. Referring to the Babri mosque incident, he promised that those responsible for the destruction of Babri mosque will receive the severest punishment.

Nateq-Nuri asked for greater cooperation between the two countries in the Nonaligned Movement to guarantee implementation of the movement's resolutions, which would be an important factor in preventing the exercise of the influence of the arrogant powers and securing the independence of the Nonaligned Movement member countries.

Hungarian Official Meets Habibi, Besharati

LD2404221793 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—Deputy Hungarian Foreign Minister Andras Keleman in a meeting with First Vice President Hasan Habibi said that his country was keen on expansion of Tehran- Budapest bilateral political, economic, cultural and trade ties.

Keleman expressed his government's concern over situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H) and said that Hungarians had afforded aid contribution for Bosnian Muslim refugees.

Habibi in return said that Iran and Hungary should promote their relations in post communism era and that Tehran was ready to adopt necessary measures in this regard.

He saw the West's refusal to acknowledge Bosnia's Islamic identity as a factor for war in that republic which has resulted in human rights violations on a catastrophic scale.

Keleman, in separate meeting today with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, requested the Islamic Republic's assistance for Hungarian access to the Central Asian markets.

He said Budapest is ready to cooperate with Tehran in sports field and expressed hope that cultural agreements would be signed between the two countries when Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visits his country.

The Hungarian official invited President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay a visit to Hungary once more.

Keleman who arrived here on Friday heading a 43-man delegation at the invitation of Besharati left Tehran for home today.

Hungary's Central Bank governor as well as head of the sports federation of that country are due in Tehran soon.

Palestinian Opposition Groups Meet in Tehran

PM2904142093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Call For Separation From PLO; Opposition Palestinian Organizations Begin Meeting in Tehran"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iran has urged radical Palestinian groups to form one front and separate from the PLO.

According to diplomatic sources in Tehran, this appeal was made by Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam at the start of a two-day meeting attended by the leaders of nine Palestinian groups opposed to the Madrid peace process in the Middle East. The meeting is attended by representatives from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Palestinian "Jihad" organization branch, and the Palestinian "Hizballah" branch, in addition to PLO dissidents.

As is known, Iran has over the past year increased its financial support for radical movements. But repeated Iranian appeals for the formation of a new unified front (supported by Hizballah in Lebanon) have so far produced no results. Radical Palestinian groups have refused to join an Iranian campaign for separation from the PLO.

Palestinian radicals are scheduled to hold meetings in Tehran with senior Iranian security, intelligence, and military officials to discuss the question of coordinating operations inside the occupied territories, according to the sources.

Foreign Ministry Recognizes Eritrea 28 Apr

LD2804153293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In a statement issued today, our country's Foreign Ministry officially recognized the independence of Eritrea. The statement reads: The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its pleasure at the result of the recent referendum in that county which took place under the supervision of international organizations and a number of countries, and in which the Eritrean people participated freely without being subjected to any kind of pressure, and voted for their country's independence with 99.08 percent of the votes. In recognizing that country's independence, the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the Eritrean people will be able to achieve great success by virtue of the world community's cooperation and assistance and good neighborly relations with the countries of the region.

Afghan Agriculture Minister, Delegation Visit

LD2904135893 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Heading a delegation, the visiting Afghan minister of agriculture [Mohammad Hadi Hadi] met with his

Iranian counterpart last night. Referring to Afghanistan's problems, including food shortages and agricultural needs, the Afghan minister called for Iran's assistance in this regard.

Iran's minister of agriculture [Dr. 'Isa Kalantari] also promised that Iran will help Afghanistan in holding expert training courses in agricultural fields.

Commentary Views Problems in Afghanistan

LD2904163193 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Despite the passing of one year since the victory of the Mojahedin in Afghanistan and the fall of the puppet Soviet installed regime the roar of heavy and light guns can still be heard in Kabul and the continuation of ethnic and sectarian differences does not augur well for that country's future.

On April 26 last year when the Mojahedin entered Kabul from the north and west the people celebrated the entry to the town of their Muslim brethren after 13 years in the trenches of struggle against the communist regime.

The collapse of Najibullah the Soviet puppet was consolation to the broken hearts of more than five million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and it was a message of hope for their speedy return to their homeland. But unfortunately the flames of the hope of freedom have seemingly been suppressed in the throat of the refugees.

The differences of the Mojahedin plunged Kabul in dust and blood with human and material possibilities of that country put to waste.

The news about continued hitting of Kabul with missiles by the forces of Gulboddin Hekmatyar, the attack of Abdur Rasul Sayyaf on defenceless people and the clash of government forces and the Council of Supervisors with opponents of interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani during the past year were among the headlines in the international mass media.

At the end of autumn last year the Treaty of Peshawar was unsuccessful in the third phase and the majority of the Mojahedin groups while confessing to the process of the formation of the "Hal- o-Aqd" (Settlement) Council announced that the selection of Rabbani to the presidency was illegal.

On the basis of the Peshawar Treaty Rabbani as the second interim president of Afghanistan was duty bound to create the grounds necessary for choosing and formation of the "Hal-o-Aqd" Council.

On the basis of this treaty the responsibility for selecting the first president of Afghanistan had been given to the "Hal-o-Aqd" Council.

An expert in Afghan affairs evaluated the internal wars in Afghanistan namely the fight for power between various groups and said the attack of government forces against positions of opposition parties in Kabul last autumn was an endeavor for ending differences through military ways.

He said the forces of the Supervisory Council and on top of it Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was the only arm of the power of Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan]. Pointing to the grave task of disarming other groups that was given to the Defence Ministry, he said it was impossible for Rabbani and Mas'ud to do so.

Although Afghan groups participating in the Islamabad talks last March reached agreement on formation of the government, in the opinion of political observers with respect to the awareness of other groups of the very sensitive situation of the Defence Ministry in Kabul the subject of choosing a minister for that post will continue as a problem.

The majority of political analysts know the subject of selecting the minister of defence as the most important and at the same time most difficult problem in the way of forming a government acceptable to all Afghan groups.

A Mojahedin leader Yunis Khales after signing the Islamabad agreement had expressed doubt on its success. In a press conference he had said "the Islamabad agreement smells of blood."

The continued raining of missiles in Kabul and the disagreement of Mojahedin forces concerning the composition of the new government is a stark reminder to this saying.

Simultaneous with the continuation of clashes in Kabul the Western news agencies gave news of comparative tranquility in the northern regions under the control of the militia leader General Abdul-Rashid Dostum who heads the "National Islamic Movement".

On the basis of those reports the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan has, by selecting a tri-colour as the official flag of the group, recently taken over the executive power in these regions systematically.

The movement was not invited to the Islamabad talks and is indignant at the absence of its representative in the Guardianship Council of Afghanistan. The movement, aware that it is one of the four powerful groups in Afghanistan, is stressing on more cabinet seats in the new government especially because it is conscious about the point that Dostum's support for any of the groups in Afghanistan will place that group in an advantageous position.

Rabbani, during his recent trip to Tehran and his interview with IRNA pointing to the presence of members of the National Islamic Movement in other groups had emphasized that this group will get its quota by way of other Mojahedin groups.

Afghan observers pointing to the continuation of differences and clashes in Kabul express concern about the possibility of spread of clashes to other cities and regions and believe that in case of continuation of the present trend and the lack of speedy agreement between Mojahedin groups a full-scale war in this country seems to be inevitable.

The situation warrants the Mojahedin to forget their personal and group interests by burying the hatchet and instead think of the preservation of independence, territorial integrity and provision of the legal rights of all Afghan people.

Continuing Conflict in Kabul Deplored

NC2904132793 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Apr 93 p 11

[Unattributed commentary: "Kabul—Fire Under the Embers"]

[Excerpts] The conflict stemming from the inability of [Afghan] President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Hekmatyar to achieve consensus on the choice of cabinet members continues unmitigated, and these ongoing differences have boosted the possibility of a more intense war between the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] of Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Reports from Kabul indicate that with Rabbani's rejection of Hekmatyar's proposed list of candidates for the cabinet, the dark ominous clouds of war and clashes between rival factions loom on the future horizon of Afghanistan. In addition to Rabbani, the leaders of other groups, namely Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, Mowlavi Mohammad Nabi, and Yunes Khales, have also arisen in opposition to the cabinet introduced by Hekmatyar, and this has further exacerbated the tensions and depth of the current political crisis on the already turbulent Afghan scene. [passage omitted]

Above all, the Afghanistan crisis stems from how power is divided. None of the jehadi groups that had participated in the struggle until the communist government was toppled and Afghanistan liberated from the clutches of the atheists trusts one another's views on the distribution of portfolios. This mistrust which aggravates the jehadi groups' lust for power plays a major role in deepening the crisis. Even before the jehadi groups' victory over communism, many of the political affairs analysts in Afghanistan who had witnessed the internal differences among the groups had expressed pessimism regarding the future of the country in the aftermath of the downfall of communism. This pessimism was not unfounded, and unfortunately the Afghan society which had been liberated last spring by the struggle of the combatant Afghan groups from the scourge of 13 years of illegitimate communist rule, has not seen any peace and stability ever since. [passage omitted]

In any case, the situation in Kabul indicates that the strongest accord, if bereft of sincerity by the involved sides, will hardly have an effect in changing the situation, and no ointment can heal the festering wounds of the Afghan people, who are the real victims of the war, or the fratricide among the rival factions. Would it not be better if the jehadi groups were to ponder this misadventure and the inauspicious, bleak destiny resulting from their devastating battles for the people and the country of Afghanistan? They should realize the errors of their incorrect choice.

Now, the shadow of another war looms over the suffering and mourning Afghan nation in Kabul which has more than ever before diminished the country's hopes about its future. This country has sacrificed one million martyrs; millions in the region have been rendered homeless; and billions of dollars in material losses have been sustained. It urgently needs peace and stability for its reconstruction.

It is regrettable that the lust for power and quest for superiority by the Afghan groups continues to be the prime, basic factor for the continuation of domestic tension in this sorrow- stricken Muslim country. When will this situation ever end, and for how long will the oppressed people of Afghanistan—who are the real losers in this struggle—continue to pay the penalty with their property and lives for the selfishness of some?

Majles Speaker Calls For Sunni, Shiite Unity

NC3004071393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Majles speaker met Jask residents and stressed the need for unity between the Shiites and Sunnis. Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is visiting Hormozgan Province, addressed the people at the Sunni Grand Mosque in Jask port. He spoke about activities to end the deprivation in the region, saying: Unfortunately, the deprivation in Jask is such that it will take many years to eliminate it.

Elsewhere in his address, the speaker stressed the need to consolidate unity between the Shiites and Sunnis, saying: The old colonialist ploy no longer works in Iran.

Last night, Nateq-Nuri attended a gathering of professors and students of the Bandar-e 'Abbas University of Medical Sciences and said: The West's accusations against Iran aim to force us to relinquish the values and principles of the Islamic revolution.

He said: The hegemonists are striving to isolate Iran internationally by leveling charges such as the violation of human rights, support for terrorism, massive ordnance purchases, and nuclear activities. By so doing, they hope to achieve their own desires.

The speaker said Iran is the region's most stable country and gets stronger politically every day, despite the vindictiveness and malice of enemies.

Council Ratifies Agreements on Nuclear Energy

LD2504115993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Summary] At today's Guardian Council session a number of bills, including the bill on the ratification of the resolution to amend clause one, Article Six of the Islamic Conference Organization charter, the bill on the cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the bill on the cooperation agreement between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Chinese Peoples' Republic on the peaceful use of nuclear energy were reviewed and found not to be contrary to religious criteria and the Constitution.

* Commentary on Regime 'Trapped' by Dollar

93LA0029E London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 4

[Article by Dr Mohammad Sattari: "The Islamic Republic in the 'Dollar' Trap"; exclamation marks as published]

[Text] Who were the people who brought multiple foreign exchange rates into the country for the first time? What creatures brought funny and absolutely ridiculous terms like floating, preferred, competitive, traveler's, sickness, and student foreign exchange, and on and on and on, into the language? Who defended the birth of such strange creatures? What beings thought that the honor of having several rates for foreign exchange and the dollar was the only way to make the economy thrive and prosper? And finally, who fell into the "dollar" trap on the pretext of having several foreign exchange rates, and then thrashed and writhed in it?

The first time was in Mordad 1367 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1988] when Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic republic, intoxicated by the poison Ayatollah Khomeyni drank to accept the cease-fire resolution between Iran and Iraq [18 Jul 1988] and using a ton of glue and paste to put the label of a victory on the Islamic Republic's defeat in the war, said: "As the result of the triumph of Islam over infidels, the government will soon make very important decisions about establishing multiple foreign exchange rates to put an end to current problems and abuses in the buying and selling of dollars."

To confirm the importance of the government's decision, Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam said: "The decisions in this regard will be so decisive and constructive that that group of abusers in the buying and selling of dollars and in the creation of a black market in this regard who are amassing uncounted wealth today, will be bankrupted(!)"

Several months after this report on the benefits of having multiple foreign exchange rates, Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the regime's minister of economic and financial affairs, issued incomprehensible and meaningless statements about establishing multiple foreign exchange rates and the price of the dollar, and this was the first time when the made-up and humorous terms "floating foreign exchange," "preferred foreign exchange," and others were heard. After this gentleman it was time to hear from another of the regime's economic minds, Dr. 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic. In the month of Shahrivar 1369 [23 Sep-22 Oct 1990] he had the last word. He said: "Henceforth competitive foreign exchange will be provided to applicants at 60 tomans per dollar for importers of productive goods, and, because of the stunning results it has produced, this policy will continue. Another type of foreign exchange is service foreign exchange, at the price of 130 tomans per dollar. It will be made available to travelers and students."

Finally there was a revealing description of the benefits of defective types of foreign exchange. In the same press conference Dr. 'Adeli opened the doors to the money-changing profession and called the deregulation of the sale of the dollar by shopkeepers a very useful provision for buyers of foreign exchange.

Praising and bragging about the establishment of multiple foreign exchange rates and the promotion of numerous terms and names for each type of dollar continued for two or three more years, and there was not a day or a week when this unprecedented measure by the government of preachers was not discussed by the yes-men writing economic articles and analyses, or when the ministers and officials of the Islamic government did not sing the praises in their interviews and speeches of the change in this regard that had come over the Islamic Republic.

This did not continue for very long, however, and, in keeping with the character of this regime, which reverses all of its decisions and statements without the slightest shame or hesitation whenever it thinks it advisable, suddenly Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, president of the republic, conveniently forgetting what he had said in the past in defense of the multiple foreign exchange rates, on 3 Esfand, at a meeting with clergymen and Friday imams and a Tehran Province congregation, without the least apology or concern about his previous statements, said: "Perhaps you do not realize how corrupt and oppressive the multiple foreign exchange rates have been."

From that day on, the same yes-men as before did an immediate about face and began decrying the multiple foreign exchange rates and the price of the dollar, calling such a decision a great sin. You would think it had not been the same ones who had praised and shouted the virtues of the plan and said it was the only way to save the economy and make commerce thrive.

Should not Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam, who today is saying that having multiple foreign exchange rates has caused corruption and oppression in the country, answer the question, why did he mistakenly support this theory of his adopted dear friends for more than three years and maintain silence in the face of the corruption and oppression to the nation?

The situation is so funny that already Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani is saying that having multiple foreign exchange rates is an incurable disease and the core of the disturbances and corruption in the nation. Moreover, in the last few days Mr. Rowghani-Zanjani, chief of the regime's Plan and Budget Organization, announced at a press conference that the government will not be implementing its unified foreign exchange rate policy that soon, because eliminating multiple foreign exchange rates violates the government's policy of economic adjustment.

That is, if we want to give an explanation concerning the views and comments of Mr. Rowghani, it is that he believes that the nation ought to continue to endure what Mr. Hojjat ol-Eslam calls oppression and corruption so that perhaps it will gradually be delivered from the evil of this disaster.

On the other hand, the regime of the Islamic Republic is so helpless and impotent in the face of the damage that it has done to itself and the swamp that it has gotten into that every minister, Majles deputy and other regime official is saying things about the benefits or harmful effects of multiple foreign exchange rates that could only be heard at a gathering of half-wits.

In the month of Aban [23 Oct-21 Nov], Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, the regime's minister of heavy industries, said: "With the establishment of a unified foreign exchange rate, it will be more economical to produce goods domestically than to import them."

On the other hand, several days later Mr. 'Erfani, deputy from Talesh, made what he called a revelation in a Majles pre-agenda speech. He said: "Establishing a unified foreign exchange rate will be an important center and focus of the nation's economic problems(!)"

In another statement the regime's minister of commerce, Mr. 'Abdol-Hoseyn Vahaji, discussed the nation's economic and energy policy at a meeting of Iranian merchants living in Germany. He said: "As of the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] the foreign exchange rate will be calculated as floating foreign exchange and we will also have another government foreign exchange rate(!)"

Mr. Ne'matzadeh, another minister from the ranks of the clergy, said something else in an interview he gave during a trip to Zanjan. He said: "If the unification of the foreign exchange does not include a provision for rials, the industrial sector will face a problem with capital."

Another Majles deputy named Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri completely opposed this statement and had something else to say. He said: "There is talk of unifying the foreign exchange rate and a number of ministers are speaking to the press and announcing the price of the dollar. This is having bad effects on society and has created many disruptions. We must realize that the unified foreign exchange rate has caused production and economic stagnation in society. This has not yet been done, but just saying these things has had that result and has had negative effects on the nation's production. It has stopped investment in deprived districts, and other investments for advancing and raising the nation's deprived districts are not showing any competitiveness."

We will pass over other contradictory statements by the regime's officials concerning the value of the dollar, where each one ridicules the other while promoting himself and calling his rivals incompetent. In conclusion, we will refer to only one more of these kinds of remarks, which can be considered educational from any standpoint(!)

Mr. Mohsen Rafiqdust, chief of the Foundation for the Oppressed, was passing the days in hopes of access to the eight-toman dollar. When he heard that one day the regime might read the last rites over the multiple foreign exchange rates, he was quite upset and said in a statement: If one day the seven-toman dollar goes up to 60 or 100 tomans for the implementation of the projects under way in the Foundation for the Oppressed, undoubtedly the implementation of this project's useful projects will be seriously endangered and the smoke from it will go into the eyes of the Hezbollah nation.

With the luminous and fruitful record left behind by the Foundation for the Oppressed and its well-accounted chief, it can be well understood what Mr. Rafiqdust means by smoke in the eyes of the Hezbollah nation.

Further on Islamic Publicity Organization Seminar

Nateq-Nuri on 'Cultural Onslaught'

LD2604104293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The 16th seminar of the heads of the Islamic Publicity Organization [IPO] offices from all over the country reviewed the policy and new mission of this organization, endorsed by the esteemed leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i].

During the seminar, Mr. Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Majles, referring to the IPO as the concentration point of the clergy, said: Our brother clergymen are the closest confidants of the people and should therefore treat the people in a manner to make them feel that the clergy is not interfering in their work.

He added: The world today is a world of propaganda and communications, and we must act in accordance with the needs of the era. The world promotes its policies through propaganda.

While ruling out the use of force against the problem of the cultural onslaught, Mr. Nateq-Nuri stressed the need for preparing appealing cultural programs in all fields of the arts and said: We must create programs that attract over a million students and several million professional people, workers, and other strata of the Iranian population. He added: When we ban something or make it unlawful, we must find lawful replacements.

Before Mr. Nateq-Nuri's remarks, the representative of the esteemed leader and the head of the IPO, Mr. Mohammadi-'Eraqi, explained some points regarding the performance of this organization.

Khamene'i Stresses Islamic Values

LD2604161393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpts] At a meeting with the heads of the Islamic Publicity Organization [IPO] offices from all over the country this morning, the leader of the Islamic revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in a speech referred to the promotion and publication of facts as the principle and basis of the genuine Islam. His eminence stressed the need for application of wise statements, good advice, and correct and constructive debate as tools of publicity. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution, while stressing the need for preventing the waste of efforts and manpower time in Islamic publicity, said: Alongside the publicity organization, it is necessary to use all of one's mental and physical potential to promote the word of justice, through application of modern techniques and languages and judicious reasoning. We must extract knowledge, principles of beliefs, ethics, rules of life, politics, and applied philosophy from the Koranic and traditional interpretations and place them at the disposal of those eager for genuine Islam, through various forms of art, innovations, and countless methods of presentation.

In conclusion, referring to the complex and dangerous propaganda of global arrogance against genuine and combative Islam, the esteemed leader stressed the need for jehadi and serious movement in the matter of publicity. [passage omitted]

Habibi on Economic Potential of Gilan Province

NC2804090493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] First Vice President Dr. Habibi concluded his visit to Gilan Province and returned to Tehran this morning. Stressing the need to exploit this province's potential, he said that by utilizing present resources, Gilan Province can be transformed into an industrial center.

Referring to the problems of the region's people and their appraisal at the Provincial Administrative Council session, Dr. Habibi stated: The government is paying special attention to optimal utilization of the country's water resources. For this purpose, in order to ensure the water supply to the province's 50,000 hectares of agricultural land, construction work will be incorporated in the second Five-Year Development Plan on (Ostureh) Dam in East Azerbaijan, which can fill the Sepid Rud.

The first vice president referred to the inauguration of the first phase of the (Sek-e Tarkibi) Power Plant in Gilan Province, and commented on the presence of agricultural, industrial, and touristic potential in the province, calling for the correct use of its resources.

Dr. Habibi also noted the scientific potential at Gilan Province universities, and said that excellent research work is being carried out in the province, an example of which is research in the field of fisheries. Regarding the request by province officials to transform Bandar-e Anzali into a free port, Dr. Habibi said: This subject will be assessed at a cabinet meeting.

Habibi also inaugurated the radio, television, and music festival of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VVIRI] last night in Rasht with an address. VVIRI Director Ziba Kenar attended.

According to the Central News Unit, in his address, Dr. Habibi stressed the presence of latent artistic talent in the country and called for discovering and using this talent in artistic and cultural projects.

Stressing the importance of VVIRI's cultural mission, Habibi described the media an important factor in advancing the scientific and cultural base of the country.

The first vice president emphasized that at VVIRI, correct speech free of complicated terminology should be used.

Last evening, Dr. Habibi also visited the Anzali Fisheries Research Complex and inspected various stages in the extraction of caviar and the work implemented at this complex.

Yunesi Appointed Chief Judicial Organization

LD2804122893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] In an edict issued by Mr. Yazdi, chief of the judicial branch, Mr. 'Ali Yunesi has been appointed as the chief of the Judicial Organization [sazman-e qaza'i] of the Armed Forces. He was formally public prosecutor of Tehran.

* Presidential Votes Counted Electronically

93LA0029D London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] The vote count for the presidential elections to take place next 15 June will be done by computer. Last week the Majles approved the use of computers for greater accuracy and speed in vote counting.

REUTER, which issued this report, noted in its report that most Iranian voters are illiterate and that the elections for president of the republic in this country, with the exception of the first time, are so one-sided and without competition that any kind of adjustment to the form of the elections has had no effect on the outcome.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani recently announced his willingness to take part in the elections for president of the republic. If Rafsanjani is chosen to this position for a second term, it will be the second four years of his presidency. In his press conferences in the past Rafsanjani has been publicly evasive about his interest in registering as a candidate for a second term as president of the republic.

Interior Minister on Presidential Elections

LD2604111293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Iran's sixth presidential elections will be held on 11 June 1993 across the country as well as in Iranian missions abroad. Candidates for presidential elections will be registered at the Ministry of Interior for five days starting 1 May, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Hamid Nuri told our correspondent today.

Following this registration period the Guardian Council will have five to ten days to return the list of the approved candidates to the Ministry and following this final Guardian Council verdict the Ministry has 48 hours to make the list public, he said.

The counting of votes in the sixth presidential elections will be mechanical and the issued voting cards will have the names and pictures of the candidates with the voters marking alongside their desired candidate, said Mr. Nuri. He said necessary explanations on the voting procedure will be announced through the media, particularly the radio and television. Pointing to the importance of the presidential elections Mr. Nuri said:

[Begin Nuri recording] Our dear people are fully aware and will participate extensively and properly in this determining, national, and nationwide election. As before they will play their role well in this elections. [end recording]

The interior minister said the law stipulates that the presidential term starts when the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution authorizes the decree for the elected president—last carried out on 3 August 1989—and naturally the end of the current term will be on the same date. Furthermore, Mr. Nuri pointed out that Majles by-elections will be held in 11 constituencies. [passage omitted]

* Shams-Ardakani Accused of Misuse of Funds

93LA0029A London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Apr 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] After the presentation to the Majles of a complaint from the people of Qeshm, this Majles assigned a delegation to look into the complaint. In this written complaint, the Qeshm Free Trade Zone Organization, whose president is Shams-Ardakani, working directly under the supervision of the president of the republic, was accused of financial abuses, violations of the nation's laws and administrative regulations and interfering with the rights of the people.

After its return to Tehran, the delegation that went to Qeshm to investigate the complaints of the people gave its report to an open session of the Majles on 15 Farvardin [4 Apr]. The delegation emphasized that most of the complaints from the officials of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone were confirmed by reality and their observations and are correct.

Shams-Ardakani, chief of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone, who had come to Tehran, called the report from the Majles delegation "a political game" at a press conference in the president of the republic's office.

The investigative delegation sent by the Majles, which gave its report based on visits and interviews with the governor general of Hormozegan, the governor and mayor of Qeshm, the people living on the island and also Shams-Ardakani, chief of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone, listed the abuses and broken laws and regulations as follows:

1. The Qeshm Free Trade Zone Organization has allocated to itself the legal prerogatives of the governor general, the governor and the mayor and it has made decisions and issued orders in violation of the nation's current laws and regulations, outside the prerogatives that have been designated for the officials of free trade zones and in conflict with the decisions and orders of the government's official representatives. Consequently the government does not know from which official to get orders and which orders to obey.

2. While the government has been authorized to declare three areas on Qeshm as "free zones," in practice the free zone has recognized no limits or borders and apparently, outside its special limits, it has confiscated or destroyed commercial and housing units that were built previously with permits obtained from the mayor's office. No reparations or damages on this account have been paid to anyone.

3. The Qeshm Free Trade Zone Organization has confiscated lands that were previously leveled for transfer to

the people and for which deposits had been collected from them, without paying reparations or damages to them.

4. For goods imported into Qeshm Island, the Qeshm Free Trade Zone willfully levied taxes without legal authorization. These taxes weren't even deposited into the general treasury. It spent them according to its own stipulations and desires. The parliamentary delegation was unable to determine the amount of this money because it was not deposited into the general treasury.

5. Shams-Ardakani is accused of operating companies called The Qeshm Commercial Company, Qeshm Steel, Qeshm Water and Electricity and Qeshm Development without obtaining legal authorization. Although the capital for these companies was sometimes paid by the government and sometimes with the aforementioned illegal taxes, they were registered at the Companies Registration Office not as government property, but in the names of legal entities.

6. The prerogatives of the companies, in violation of the principles that apply to free trade zones, were assigned to the chief of the zone, Shams-Ardakani, and his wife. Among other violations mentioned was "creating deputy and consultative positions...and setting their wages outside of the uniform payments system," without the level of their taxes being set.

7. "Individuals were hired without regard to the regulations on appointments, and solely at the discretion of the chief of the free trade zone."

8. Contracts were signed with foreign companies and lands were transferred to them without obtaining legal authorization.

Finally, the parliamentary delegation accused the chief of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone of importing, releasing and assigning numbers to vehicles and "he drives vehicles on the island with free trade zone plates and numbers without paying the customs fees...and there is no sign of the emblem or official insignia of the Islamic Republic of Iran on any of the correspondence papers or free trade signs, which indicate the free trade zone's affiliation with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Last year, the chief of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone invited Iranians outside the country to buy land in the Qeshm Free Trade Zone as a "profitable investment," but this invitation was not well received.

Shams-Ardakani, who is also deputy minister of mines and metals, was appointed chief of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic. At a press conference held at the presidential palace in Tehran, he said that the report to the Majles from the delegation is a "political game." When the report was presented to the Majles he expressed "surprise," and added: "I have no budget on Qeshm and it would be better if the respected Majles went after those organizations and offices who have spoiled the budget that has been allocated."

Cabinet Discusses Consumer Protection Bill

LD2804221993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Excerpt] During a cabinet session on Wednesday night, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a draft bill on consumer protection was discussed for submission to the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

At the end of the session, in an interview with the central news unit, Mr. Habibi, first vice president and government spokesman, stressed the need to observe the rights of consumers and mentioned paying attention to the safety and standard aspects of goods and the provision of guarantees for some goods.. It is also necessary to provide a full list of specifications for goods—such as weight, composition, date of production, and use-by date for consumers. These should form some of the main aspects of the bill, and Mr. Habibi emphasized their necessity.

Under the bill penalties and fines have been envisaged for offenders and a body, under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce, styled inspectors and monitors of consumer protection will supervise the implementation of the bill.

He added: In some cases, where the government sees fit, prices will be set for goods and producers will be required to observe the prices announced. [passage omitted]

Hard Currency Limit Set for Travellers

LD2804203793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 93

[Text] The amount of hard currency allowed to be taken out of the country by those travelling abroad hsa been announced as the equivalent of $10,000 in banknote form for each passportholder. According to a statement by the Iranian Customs, hard currency allowed to be taken out of the country in the form of banknotes by each passport-holder is only equivalent to $10,000. Any amount more than that—according to the regulations of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran—must be through the state banking network and in the form of bank order or traveller's cheque.

500 Billion Rials in Aid for Rural Areas

LD2904145093 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Sanandaj, Kurdestan Prov., April 29, IRNA—Construction Jihad Ministry will spend rls. [rials] 500 billion on projects to remove deprivation in rural areas of the country in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), said a ministry official here Wednesday.

Development and Rural Industries Deputy of the Ministry E. Karimi added that three power plants in Fars, Kohiloyeh-Boyer Ahmad and Gilan Provinces, generating a total of 5.5 megawatts, would be also put into operation this year.

He referred to such projects as construction of roads in rural areas, providing villages with electricity and fresh water and plans to support carpet weaving industry as programs to be carried out by the ministry within the year.

The official further said that an additional rls. 110 billion of banking facilities would be allocated to back the carpet industry as well.

Karimi also noted that due to the newly-adopted economic policies and the single parity rate for foreign currency, the ministry would only approve projects which were oriented on agricultural activities and their required raw materials could be obtained in rural areas.

Setting up of rural development houses, perpetuation of rendering services to rural areas, enforcement of new laws for better management of rural affairs are among various proposals offered by the ministry for consideration in the second Five-Year Development Plan, he added.

Pakistan

More New Ministers Named, Portfolios Annnounced

BK2904163693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] Seventeen more federal ministers, nine ministers of state, three advisers, and eight special assistants have been inducted into the Federal Cabinet. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath of office to the new ministers and advisers in Islamabad this afternoon. The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, was present on the occasion. The federal ministers and their portfolios are: Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, foreign affairs; Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, commerce; Mr. Jahangir Badar, food and agriculture; Mr. Zafar Ali Leghari, industries; Malik Mohammad Qasim, railways; Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, narcotics; Mr. Amanullah Khan Jadun, Kashmir and northern affairs; Mr. Mohammad Afaq Khan Shahid, health; and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah Jamot, population welfare.

Those whose portfolios will be announced later are Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani, Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Khan, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Mian Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, Shah Faridul Haq, Mr. Mohammad Asad Khan Junejo, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan.

The nine ministers of state inducted into the cabinet are: Jam Mashooq Ali, communications; Haji Gulsher Khan Afridi, states and frontier region; Malik Mohammad Ajmal Khan, petroleum and natural resources; and Miss Fauzia Habib, women's development.

Those ministers of state whose portfolios will be announced later are Mr. Asghar Ali Shah, Mr. Alamzeb Khan, Mr. Abdur Rahman Jamali, Syed Parwez Ali Shah, and Mr. Munir Hussain Gilani. Mr. Kishan Chand Parwani who was inducted into the cabinet last Thursday was also sworn in as minister of state for minorities affairs.

The three advisers with the rank of federal ministers are Mian Jamal Shah, Syed Nusrat Ali Shah, and Mr. Bostan Ali Hoti. The eight special assistants to the prime minister with the status of ministers of state are: Mian Mohammad Shafi, Chaudhary Abul Sattar, Mian Abdul Khalid, Mr. Ghul Hamid Khan Rokari, Mr. Iqbal Bhatti, Syed Hamid Sayeed Qazmi, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, and Mr. Qayum Nizami.

Muhammad Javaid Ashraf Appointed ISI Chief

BK2904141793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 28—Lieutenant General Muhammad Javaid Ashraf has been appointed as the new Director General [DG] of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) in place of Lt. General Khawaja Javaid Nasir.

According to sources the services of Lt General Khawaja Javaid Nasir, an engineer, have been given back to the Army. He served the ISI more than a year.

Lt General Khawaja Javaid Nasir was appointed DG, ISI by former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif towards the end of 1991.

Lt General Muhammad Javaid Ashraf, currently Master General Ordnance (MGQ) in the GHQ [General Headquarters], earlier served as the Director General Military Intelligence (DG, MI).

Ahmad Sadiq, currently Federal Secretary for Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs, has been appointed as the Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting in place of Haji Muhammad Akram. The new posting orders of Haji Muhammad Akram were expected to be made in a day or two, sources said. Ahmad Sadiq had also served as the Chief Secretary Sindh during 80's.

Capt (Retd) Aftab Ahmad would be the Federal Secretary of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs, sources added.

Mazari: Muslim League, PPP To Work Together

BK2904145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari, has said Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan

Muslim League will work together to face the challenges being confronted by the country. The prime minister was talking to newsmen after attending the Pakistan Muslim League Central Council meeting in Islamabad today. The prime minister reiterated his government's commitment to hold the elections with complete impartiality and fairness according to schedule.

To a question, the prime minister said his government is vigilant about the situation on Pakistan-India border. To another question, he said his government would be making efforts to dispel the impression of Pakistan's alleged involvement in any kind of terrorist activity.

Muslim League, Jamaat Alliance Likely

BK2904153793 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 28 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[By Suleman Ghani]

[Text] Lahore—Jamaat-i-Islami and the Muslim League have intensified their contacts to forge cooperation and alliance for the upcoming elections. Their telephone conversations and indirect negotiations have taken the form of formal meetings over the past few days. Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's special assistant and former minister; and Mian Shahbaz Khan have had a one-and-half hour meeting with Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed and discussed steps to remove misunderstandings and Nawaz Sharif's feelings toward the Jamaat-i-Islami. The Muslim League leaders said that their party considers Jamaat-i-Islami as its natural ally and seeks the latter's guidance in the existing alarming situation. While appealing to Qazi Hussain Ahmed for assistance, the Muslim League leaders expressed the hope that Jamaat-i-Islami will not leave them alone in the interest of the nation and for the restoration of democracy in the country.

Muslim League sources told the daily PAKISTAN that during this meeting, the Muslim League leaders appreciated the principled stand of the Jamaat-i-Islami on the issue of dissolving the National Assembly. It has also been learned that Qazi Hussain Ahmed said that had the government acted in accordance with the election manifesto of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, no power whatsoever would have the courage to dissolve the National Assembly, nor would have the forces, which do not enjoy the confidence of the people, grabbed power. We had withdrawn from the Nawaz Sharif government because of differences of principles and the whole world is aware of our stand in this regard. We are not at all in favor of the dissolution of the provincial assemblies.

Informed sources say there is the possibility of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad practically coming into the field once again. These sources say that the Jamaat-i-Islami has still not given any categorical assurance to Nawaz Sharif, but the situation and events are moving in a direction in which the Muslim League, the Jamaat-i- Islami, and other religious parties will once again stand on a single platform.

Mazari, Air Force Chief Discuss Issues

BK2904142693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 93

[Text] The chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, called on Mir Balkh Sher Mazari in Islamabad today. During the meeting, he discussed with the prime minister matters of national importance.

Bhutto Rules Out Possibility of Martial Law

BK2904102193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Islamabad—Ruling out possibility of joining hands with the deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-chairperson, Benazir Bhutto Wednesday said "the dismissal of Nawaz government should be seen as acceptance of the demand of the nation".

Talking in a group of reporters at her residence after meeting with the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, at the Prime Minister's House, Bhutto said "people would welcome acceptance of national demand but would reject palace intrigues".

She said "I intend to see president Gulam Ishaq Khan Thursday (today). "We are members of the government of 'national consensus' and need to meet president several times".

General elections, she emphatically said, would be held within 90 days. She directed her party leaders to invite applications for party tickets. First PPP would finalise lists of its candidates and then the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] parliamentary board would take a [word indistinct], she added.

Bhutto, however, made it clear that formation of an independent election commission, dissolution of provincial assemblies and conducting of polls under army was a must to ensure fair and free elections.

Asked about her party's desire to contest July 14 National Assembly polls even in the presence of provincial asemblies Bhutto said "it will be premature to say anything. We will discuss the issue with our allied parties in the PDA and APC [All Party Conference]".

Describing the statement of chief of the army staff Gen Abdul Waheed as fine in which he has pledged to uphold constitution. Bhutto said there was no danger of imposition of martial law, if we don't play with constitution". She recalled that to ensure dismissal of Nawaz government her party and its allied parties had staged the long march and mobilized people for the rule of law, justice for common man and victims of cooperative scandal and floods. She ruled out possibility of any meeting with Nawaz saying "we have differences with him (Nawaz)".

Bhutto questioned what did the Nawaz government do with poor [word indistinct] of the cooperative societies? What was done to the motorway project and why poor workers of the Muslim Commercial Bank and other units were defrauded. "Nawaz government has denied right of poor. How can we compromise with those who looted poor widows, orphans and retired soldiers" she posed a question.

She, however, clarified that her party opposed Nawaz politically but it did not mean [word indistinct] missing of all norms.

Bhutto alleged that as prime minister, Nawaz badly failed. Dubbing him as wheeler dealer. She, however, admitted that Nawaz's last speech on radio and TV turned a businessman into a politician. She said "I can't speak for others, but it is a fact that Nawaz came to conclusion that he was going to be dismissed. That was why he made such a speech on TV and Radio, Bhutto maintined. [no end quote as published]

She stressed that return of a "true" government was a must as a result of fair polls. Unfortunately that message is not getting across, there is high need to take up concrete steps to remove confusion, she pointed out.

She said "let us have principles, law and constitution", adding elections should be fair for myself and my opponents. Similarly law and constitution should be same for all.

She claimed that Nawaz was by no way a threat to her party. "I consider myself as a sister of the poor and I am daughter of a great Muslim leader who laid down his life for his people". I want to see a developed Pakistan in accordance with liberal ideas of late Quaide Azam and founding chairman of the PPP, late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. "We wanted that men and women of Pakistan march together for their betterment. I consider myself as an Eastern woman. We are political people but our party does not believe in the politics of revenge".

To a question she said her party had not come to an agreement of electoral adjustment with any party, including the PML [Pakistan Muslim League], (Chattha). She vowed to review that what she said controversial projects such as motorway and distribution of several units on nominal prices among those closely related to previous [word indistinct] Bhutto said her party wanted such a privatisation policy in which shares of different units should be given to small share holders and poor workers. "We wanted to protect the rights of poor because working class, women, minorities, peasants and consumers are our constituency", she claimed.

She did not agree with a journalist suggesting that component parties of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] were dissatisfied over the PPP's decision of joining the caretaker government.

Bhutto described her meeting with the caretaker prime minister Mazari as a nice one. "Mazari Sahib invited me and Begum Sahiba (Begum Nusrat Bhutto) to a cup of tea with his family. We discussed some problems, she said, adding Mazari was head of such a government having distinct groups. Federal minister and ex-chief minister, NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Aftab Ahmad Khan Sharpao accompanied Bhutto ladies to prime minister's house.

Former Punjab Chief Appeals Dismissal

BK3004030293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Punjab Chief Minister Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo has said that provincial assemblies will continue to fulfill their responsibilities for the greater national interest and promotion of democracy and stability of political institutions. He was addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi yesterday. Referring to the change of government in Punjab, he said the change has been effected by the party in accordance with democratic norms and conventions.

Former Punjab Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wyne has filed a constitutional petition in the Lahore High Court against provincial chief minister Manzur Ahmad Watto challenging the Punjab Assembly sessions of 21 and 24 April in which the former was removed from the position of the chief minister through a no-confidence motion.

Zaki on Rights Violation in Kashmir, Terrorism

BK3004025693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Apr 93

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, has said that Pakistan wants to live in peace with India and it has always been its efforts to settle all unresolved issues, including important issues like Kashmir, through negotiations. Addressing a meeting of the English Speaking Union of Pakistan in Karachi yesterday, he said that tension in the region will continue until pending issues are resolved in a just and equitable manner.

Zaki referred to the massive violation of human rights of innocent people by Indian forces in the occupied Kashmir and said that Pakistan wants the American friends to see what is happening in occupied Kashmir. The secretary general of foreign affairs categorically said that Pakistan is against all kinds of terrorism. Zaki also expressed his views on Pakistan's relations with other countries, including the United States, China, and Middle Eastern countries.

Daily Comments on 'Terrorist State' Charge

BK2904111793 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Apr 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Combating Terrorism"]

[Text] It has lately become a ritual with sections of the Western society to accuse Muslim groups or even this or that Islamic country of aiding and abetting terrorism whenever the opportunity offers. Whether it is the explosion in the World Trade Centre or the murder of certain CIA operatives, so-called Muslim extremists or religious fanatics are immediately seen to be at the back of it. The consensus reportedly emerging at the OIC Foreign Ministers' Conference in Karachi to define terrorism and evolve a code of conduct to combat terrorist activity is therefore wholly apposite and timely.

This should provide assurance to the Western governments and to public opinion in Western countries that the Islamic world clearly rejects terrorism as an instrument of policy and in particular abhors mindless violence directed against innocent and uninvolved persons, groups and targets. The international community has yet to renounce the use of force as a way of resolving disputes and pacifism remains a wholly cranky idea. Given this irrefutable fact, it is most important to differentiate between the phenomenon of terrorism and legitimate liberation movements or armed struggles of national resistance against forces of occupation such as we are witnessing in occupied Arab territories and Indian-held Kashmir. Those who themselves have had to fight for national independence in order to become free and sovereign such as the Americans should not find it too difficult to draw a distinction between terrorism and a freedom struggle. It is absolutely important to apply objective criteria rather than arbitary notions for defining the true nature of an on-going process.

In one of his first statements after assuming the office of caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan—a country that is under persistent threat of being declared terrorist—Sardar Balkh Sher Mazari declared categorically that necessary measures had been taken to deny use of Pakistani territory for terrorist actively. While inaugurating the OIC Foreign Ministers Conference, he again unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and left no doubt that Pakistan was committed to combating terorism "wherever and whenever it occurs". Pakistan cannot but feel disturbed at intermitttent reports that it is on the brink of being listed as a terrorist state. The United States apparently gives credence to India's high pressure propaganda against Pakistan, accusing it of crossborder terrorism, aiding and abetting the Akali unrest in East Punjab and the uprising in Indian-held Kashmir.

The Clinton administration is said to be inclined to place Pakistan on the US list of nations which support terrorism, unless concrete evidence is provided that it has severed its connection with the Kashmiri fredom-fighters. Pakistan, on its part, has taken every opportunity to assure Washsington that it was not supporting terrorist activity of any kind, of course without surrendering its sovereign right to extend all moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri freedom-fighters. Pakistan has over and over again demonstrated its keen desire to assuage the apprehansions of the US Administration. There is also a standing offer to international observers, including US-based organisations, to facilitate the monitoring of the Line of Control in the disputed state to verify the situation on the ground. Pakistan is also on record as having offered to coordinate measures which it has adopted from time to time in deference to the overall concern about terrorist activitiy.

The American obsession for identiying militancy with those whom it regards as Islamic fundamentalists is seen by many Pakistanis as a mindset conditioned by memories going back to the crusades as well as by on-going confrontation between Zionists and the Arabs. It is also genrally believed that the American perception of terorism is highly selective; while the US feels outraged at reports of Pakisani assistance to the freedom-fighters in Kashmir, which in any case is a disputed territory, it conveniently turns a blind eye to Israel's state terrorism, of which the people of occupied Arab territories continue to be the victim. Israel's recent deportation of more than 400 Arabs from their homes was one of a long list of acts of terrorism carried out against Arabs by the Zionist state.

Pakistan's initiative in focusing the attention of the OIC Foreign Ministers on the West's recurrent chanrrge of terrorism against Islamic nations will, one hopes, prove to be a prelude to a well-organised world wide campaign to put the issues into perspective, to allay the misgivings of well-meaning but misguided persons and groups and to reassure world opinion that the fraternity of Islamic nations is at one with other nations in seeking to combat a crime which has no moral or religions sanction in Islam.

Sri Lanka

Spokesman Rules Out Postponement of Elections

BK2904125093 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1104 GMT 29 Apr 93

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremasinghe yesterday scotched rumours that the government is attempting to postpone the May 17, provincial council elections.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing he said the election commissioner had not recommended the postponement of elections and the government had never considered doing so using the emergency power. "We are going ahead with the election campaign", he said, that the opposition was trying to make use of Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali's assassination and to sling mud at the president.

"I don't think it (Mr. Athulathmudali's death) will have an impact on the voting pattern", he said.

Mr. Wickremasinghe said the campaign of the Podujana Eksath Peramuna, PEP, had not yet started and next week would show whether DUNF [Democratic United National Front] would pick up any PEP votes.

He said all were concerned about Mr. Athulathmudali's killing. We should all endeavour to see that this cult of violence is ended, he said.